

THE
NONCONFORMIST.

"The dissidence of dissent and the protestantism of the protestant religion."

No. 176.—VOL. IV.

LONDON: WEDNESDAY, JULY 3, 1844.

PRICE 6d.

CONTENTS.

ECCLIASTICAL:—	Forms of Oppression .. 484
An Address (not official) to the Members of the Council..... 477	The Anti-corn-law Debate .. 484
Anti-state-church Agitation—Meeting at Birmingham—Meeting at Edinburgh, &c. 477	The Man of Letters 485
Miscellaneous..... 478	Sketches by a Friend .. 485
CORRESPONDENCE..... 479	FOREIGN NEWS:—
IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT:—	India—France—Spain—
Repeal of the Corn Laws	Hayti—America—Mis-
—Sugar Duties bill—	cellany .. 486
Bank Charter bill—Dis-	METROPOLITAN .. 487
senters' Chapels bill—	PROVINCIAL .. 487
Post Office Espionage	IRELAND .. 488
—Irish Registration	SCOTLAND .. 488
bill—Unlawful Oaths	EVERYBODY'S COLUMN... 489
—Miscellaneous .. 480	LITERATURE:—
POSTSCRIPT .. 483	Lectures, by John Foster 490
POLITICAL ARTICLES:—	Brief Notices .. 490
Summary..... 484	RELIGIOUS .. 491
	MARRIAGES AND DEATHS 491
	TRADE AND COMMERCE .. 491
	ADVERTISEMENTS .. 492

Ecclesiastical Affairs.

AN ADDRESS (NOT OFFICIAL) TO THE MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL.

WE published, in our last week's number, the names of those gentlemen whom the choice of the delegates to the late Conference has placed upon the Council of the British Anti-state-church Association. We now take the liberty of submitting to them a few considerations which, we trust, will be taken as they are offered, in a kindly and serious spirit. Possibly we may lay ourselves open to the charge of presumptuous forwardness; but we have learned, in the course of our brief experience, that all attempts to further a great enterprise, expose those who make them to a kindred censure. "Nothing venture, nothing win." If many blame, some at least will listen. We know not that our own reputation is of much importance—we are sure that the success of the British Anti-state-church Association is. Therefore, to all who are disposed to criticise our conduct, we say with the celebrated pupil of antiquity, "Strike, but hear!"

We have an impression that the great proportion of those gentlemen whose names appeared in our columns last week, as constituting the Council, will be pleased with the confidence thus reposed in them. It is but reasonable that they should be so. Their nomination to office implied thus much—that they were known as men attached to their professed principles. Thenceforth, it might be taken for granted by all whom it might concern, that they were unmistakable dissenters—that, wide as might be the class of epicene nonconformists, and difficult as it might be to trace the boundary line of their ecclesiastical whereabouts, these men were not of them. On the contrary, the recommendation of their names as eligible for office, took them clean out of the crowd, whether of the listless or of the ignorant, and introduced them to especial notice as earnest votaries of truth. Their election has set the seal of some hundreds of their brethren to the reality of their nonconforming faith. Their present position, consequently, is not a little honourable to them—it is a fitting testimony to past consistency—it is concurrent approbation given by not a few to earnestness of character and integrity of purpose—and, in these days, to have earned thus much is no despicable achievement.

Now, we trust we may be excused for suggesting that the gratification afforded to these individuals, by their unsolicited election to the Council, may find a remarkably appropriate mode of expressing itself. They cannot return thanks in the ordinary way for the good opinion entertained of them by others—seeing that their addresses, however pithy, would, in such case, fill a volume—and fill it to no useful purpose. But there is a mode whereby they may, at one and the same time, discharge their obligation to their constituents, usefully exercise their own powers, and greatly promote the object which they have at heart. They can reason after this fashion, and after this fashion they can resolve—"We have been selected to constitute, unitedly, the head and heart of the most important movement of modern times. Upon us, consequently, lights a very onerous responsibility. As is the centre, so will be the extremities. Zeal displayed by us will kindle

zeal. If we flag, others may be expected to droop. We are five hundred. We are distributed over the whole empire. We can, if we will, make our influence tell simultaneously on every part. Each of us, by easy efforts, may enlist such friends of the cause, as he knows to exist in his own neighbourhood—may register members—may procure subscriptions—may collect and distribute useful information. Active operations will most gracefully begin with us. With us, then, they shall begin, and that immediately. Our example shall introduce our exertions—and we will back our application to others, by a quiet reference to what we have done ourselves."

It is no part of our purpose to hint even a probability that the members of the Council will wear the honours, without participating in the toils of office. We have no fear of the kind. Our sole anxiety is to remind them of what perhaps might escape individual notice—the immense power for good residing in so numerous, and yet so select, a body. By the resolute action of every member within the circuit of his own sphere—by conscientious, systematic, and harmonious effort—how early might the whole country become leavened with anti-state-church doctrines. Separately considered, the work of each may be deemed of small importance—but regarded as a link in a chain, or a single stone in an arch, it acquires a relative value far higher than that which belongs to a mere unit in the aggregate of effort. It resembles a wheel in a complex piece of mechanism. Its action will go to determine the complete efficiency of the whole. It becomes, therefore, every member of the body to whom we now address ourselves to estimate his position, his influence, and his exertions, as constituting an integral part of a general system, and to judge of them not as they would appear in an isolated aspect, but as they stand connected with a systematic plan. If any one may excuse himself from moving, all may—if every one resolves to perform his part, the combined result will place the Association at once upon high grounds, and secure for it capabilities of pre-eminent usefulness. Hence our anxiety that each should recognise his special responsibility—that each should solemnly determine that, at all events, will not allow inaction to detract aught from the completeness of the general effect—and that the strength and consistency of the whole body should grow out of the fidelity and activity of every individual member.

It is far more pleasurable, as every reflective observer will be aware, to indulge fancy in the contemplation of some *beau ideal*, than to take the necessary steps to realise it. The tourist, as he gazes upon some mountain summit, may be fired with ambition to climb it, and in anticipation of his achievement, may be well excused if, pausing for a few moments, he lets loose his imagination, to hover over the delight which is yet distant, although within reach. The day-dream is not unnatural, and if it but nerve the heart for earnest plodding, is not without its use. But, however charming, it may not be prolonged. The soaring aspiration must be succeeded by toilsome effort. The excursions of the mind must be followed by the vigorous use of the limbs. It may seem a disagreeable descent from the great to the little, to have his gazing upon the picture which fancy has conjured up before him, and betake himself to setting one foot before another. Nevertheless, the thing must be done. So is it not a little pleasing to indulge ourselves in contemplating the vision of an emancipated church, and in calling up to view all the forms of loveliness in which, when that event shall have been accomplished, Christian willingness may be expected to embody itself. The shadowy and gloamin picture may well entice our desires from their resting-place, and cause us to feel for the time as though the realisation of the magnificent idea before us were identified with our highest notions of felicity. We may become enthusiasts, so far as mere sentiment is concerned. But all this feeling, unless it be a highway to practice, is but a refinement of human selfishness; and the moment we set foot on practice, the airy pageant vanishes. Details touch these fond imaginings, as with "Ithuriel's spear," and lo! the poetry is gone—the magic ceases. Nothing but an earnest will can endure this transition—and yet, where anything valuable is to be done, it cannot be avoided.

For this transition we hope the members of the Council will at once prepare themselves. A great

matter will be accomplished by their simply resolving to brave it. Let them bear in mind that nothing connected with the world of truth is truly little which is real—and that the highest honour of man consists not in imagining, but in doing. A single day's work will outvalue all the splendid pictures in the world. One effort is of more worth than ten thousand wishes.

ANTI-STATE-CHURCH AGITATION.
MEETING AT BIRMINGHAM.

On Monday evening, the 24th ult., a very spirited meeting was held in Heneage Street chapel, to receive the report of the delegates from Birmingham to the Anti-state-church Conference, Mr CHARLES HILL ROE, baptist minister, in the chair.

The CHAIRMAN, as one of the delegates, said he had great pleasure in being able to report that the Conference was composed of men of talent, piety, and prudence—long-trying, accustomed to think soberly, and not conclude rashly. Some there were just buckling on the armour, others about to put it off, and put on the crown. Altogether the proceedings were well fitted to inspire confidence, and the oneness of sentiment and feeling which pervaded the whole assembly, was a hopeful indication of future triumph. There was but one opinion, that the church establishment is an evil, and continually corrupting and defiling the religion of the Saviour, enfeebling the arm of Christianity, and crippling the energies of the state [cheers]. Not only did that opinion prevail, but also the strong conviction that the time had come when measures should be taken to secure the safe, and satisfactory, and speedy disruption of the union between the church and the state [cheers]. Mr ROE then read from various publications a number of facts illustrative of the evils resulting from the working out of civil establishments of religion. He concluded an excellent address by saying—Before he introduced Mr STURGE, who was to address the meeting first, he would ask, was that the man, beloved at home by his own townsmen, and whose benevolence was in every breath of the winds of heaven, whose house should be plundered for a church rate [no, no]? And yet it was only a few days since the church took his sofa, and carried it to a beer-shop, and sold it to a huckster, down yonder, to feed and fatten her clergy with a robbery committed in the name of the Lord [shame]. When these things were done, what was it that the church could not do? If Joseph Sturge's house was not a sanctuary, whose castle was safe?

Mr STURGE then stood forward, and was received with great applause. He said, with regard to the amount of money which had been stated by the chairman, it included both the actual demand made, and the expense of seizure; they held the demand to be unjust, and therefore refused to pay it, while at the same time they lost the property, which was carried off to cover both that demand and the expenses. In his own case, the demand for the rate was £2 7s. 11d., while the articles taken cost him £10 [shame, shame]. This has been the practice of the society of Friends for more than a century. They did not resist the law, but let them take their property. In his own case, the officers had gone into the house and generally taken his silver spoons; they rather preferred taking what they could carry away in their pockets, but in the present instance they had got a little more bold and taken his sofa and a hat stand [hear, hear]. In speaking thus, he wished it to be clearly understood, that he was speaking against systems and not against men, and he did believe that there were many good men in the church of England who would be glad to get clear of the practice of which they now complained [cheers]. After referring to the efficacy of the voluntary principle, in the United States (having been told that morning by a friend of his from one of the states (Connecticut), that there was a church there for every thousand of the population, and that the ministers were well paid), he entered into various statistics, compiled from parliamentary returns, in reference to the church establishment. It was, he said, the design of the Conference to put an end to such a state of things as he had been describing. When present, he was struck with the fact, that it was not composed of those who were called leading dissenters, but of men of the more humble walks of life. All great reforms had originated with them; and to this he believed it was mainly owing that there had been no compromise [cheers]. He was particularly pleased at the conference to see Dr COX come forward openly and give up the distribution of the *Regium Donum* [cheers]. As a man of peace, he rejoiced to see that a feeling hostile to the warlike spirit of church establishments prevailed at the Conference. To his own mind, it was a most painful thought, that a church which professed to be the church of peace, had amongst its articles a prayer for the success of the British arms [hear, hear]. It was but recently that a high dignitary in the church

had consecrated the banners which would float in the battle field, than which nothing could be more calculated to make infidelity abound.

Mr T. H. MORGAN, baptist minister, then addressed the meeting:—As citizens of the state, with episcopacy, considered as such, they had no right and no desire to interfere; but, with the establishment itself they would hold no parley, and, by the blessing of God, they would never rest until it was entirely overthrown [cheers].

Mr J. H. WILSON spoke next. He gave a detailed and interesting account of the proceedings of the Conference, and advanced a number of facts illustrative of the evils of a church establishment. One good effect he believed had already flowed from a resolution of the Conference, conjoined with the efforts of a few English voluntaries, who, while the majority of their brethren were culpably silent, had never failed to urge on the leaders of the free church of Scotland, the inconsistency of claiming to be voluntaries in practice but churchmen in principle [hear]. The resolution of the Conference to which he referred was passed on the evening of the third day's sitting, and was simply an acknowledgment of the devoted labours of the Scottish voluntaries, and the expression of an earnest hope that they would continue to deal faithfully by the free kirk. Now there was a clause in the confession of faith of the established church of Scotland, which laid it down, "that it is the duty of the civil magistrate to take order and to see that unity and peace be preserved in the church; all heresies and blasphemies suppressed; the truth of God kept pure and entire; for the better ordering of which he hath power to call synods, to be present at them, and to provide that whatsoever is transacted therein shall be according to the mind of God" [hear, hear, and shame]. When the free church sent their deputation to England to collect money, that was the doctrine they held, and several of the leading ministers declared that they would abide by their old standards, be the consequences what they might. But how stood the case now? Why, he happened to be at Edinburgh when the free church assembly met there in May last, and had the pleasure of knowing, before he left, that that clause had been struck out by a committee appointed to revise the standards of the church [great cheering]. There was plenty of the popery of protestantism in the free church yet, as well as among many English dissenters; but she was practically on the high road to truth, and, in the end, would find that she had been forced out to solid ground.

Mr Counsellor PERRY rose to move a resolution to this effect:—

"Resolved, that this meeting, having heard a statement of the proceedings of the Anti-state-church Conference, held at the Crown and Anchor, London, commencing on the 30th April last, approve thereof, and rejoice to believe that a movement has thus been commenced, which in the hands of Divine Providence promises to become instrumental in uprooting civil establishments of religion in every part of the world" [cheers].

Notwithstanding all that has been said about the progress of religious opinion, he was rather afraid that in some respects they were going backwards. The other day an officer walked round his counter and took thirteen pounds of sugar to pay a fifteen-penny rate [shame]. Such had not been done to him for forty years [hear]. Some time ago, Captain Moorsom presided at an anti-state-church meeting; the summons for the fifteen-penny rate was signed by that good man [shame, shame]—and the warrant to seize the sugar was signed by a deacon of an independent church—Mr James James. (Here there was a general burst of indignant feeling.) If the office of magistrate involved such duties as these, he declared that no consideration would induce him to accept it [cheers]. And yet the establishment was called the poor man's church!

Mr MORGAN, with reference to the remark made about the apathy of some dissenters, said, the meeting would be glad to hear, that at the meeting of the Baptist Midland Association of the Midland Churches, held the other day, a resolution was passed, with only one dissentient voice, approving of the proceedings of the Conference.

After a few words from the Chairman, a gentleman on the right rose to propose a vote of thanks to the delegates; but Mr Roe said he thought they had only done their duty, and he, for one, did not conceive that he was entitled to any thanks, and he thought the other delegates would be of the same mind [hear and cheers].

A vote of thanks, moved by Mr Wilson and seconded by Mr MORGAN, was nevertheless passed to the Chairman, for his able conduct in the chair; after which the benediction was pronounced, and the meeting separated.

MEETING AT EDINBURGH.

(Abridged from the *Edinburgh Chronicle*.)

A meeting of the friends of religious liberty took place on Thursday evening, for the purpose of hearing the Rev. James Robertson, Portsburgh, and John Dunlop, Esq., of Brockloch, give an account of the proceedings of the Anti-state-church Conference held in London, at which they were present as delegates from this city. Baille Wilson occupied the chair. There were about 1,200 persons present.

After prayer by the Rev. George O. Campbell, minister of Arthur Street Relief church, the Chairman briefly explained the objects of the meeting.

Mr Robertson then entered into a full detail of the deliberations of the Conference, the full particulars of which have been already furnished to our readers. He concluded by an earnest appeal to those present to follow up the agitation which had been so auspiciously revived.

Mr Dunlop then shortly addressed the meeting. He pronounced a high eulogium on the Conference, characterising it as a green oasis in the wilderness of public agitation, evincing, by the calmness of its

debates and its wise resolves, that it was a worthy representative of British dissent, and calculated to bring the cause of voluntarism to a successful issue. Mr Dunlop then proceeded to show the intimate connexion between civil and religious liberty, contending that the possession of the first was essential to the security of the other, and the necessity for the extension of political privileges on this ground.

The Rev. Jonathan Watson was then called on to move the following resolution:—

"That this meeting has observed with great pleasure that the Anti-state-church Conference has been held in London, and having seen that its proceedings and the plans adopted on the occasion were such as to promote the great cause of the separation of church and state, feel much satisfaction in receiving the report of those gentlemen who were so kind as to act as delegates, and agree to tender to them a cordial vote of thanks for their valuable services."

The reverend gentleman delivered a lengthened and eloquent speech in support of this resolution. From the labours of the Anti-state-church Conference, and the spirit manifested by that assembly, he augured the best results. He had had occasion to see with his own eyes, and hear with his own ears, the change which had of late been wrought among the English dissenters on the subject of state churches [cheers]. Down with them, down with them! was now the universal cry against these unhallowed institutions of priestly ambition and political craft [hear, hear]. There must not only be no more endowments, but those which were already possessed must be resumed by the state for general purposes, and the legislation of ecclesiastics must be brought to an end [cheers].

The resolution was seconded by Mr Falkner, and was carried unanimously.

The Rev. Dr Young, of Perth, proposed the next resolution:—

"That this meeting, deeply convinced that church and state alliance is dishonouring to the Lord Jesus Christ, the only king and head of the church—inimical to harmonious co-operation among Christians—detrimental to individual piety—adverse to the spread of true religion through the world—and opposed to the civil rights of the community—pledges itself to co-operate with the friends of religious freedom throughout the country in the propagation and defence of voluntary church principles."

They had heard two voices from England—one from that noble Conference, the proceedings of which had been already detailed; another from a considerable party at present in connexion with the church of England, who were justly alarmed at that awful principle of spiritual despotism which was manifesting itself under the name of Puseyism. These voices proclaimed distinctly the rapid diffusion of the voluntary principle [hear]. There was also a voice from Scotland—namely, from the Free church. The disruption of the Scottish establishment had been brought about by the efforts of voluntary dissenters. This might be denied by the Free churchmen, but history would set the matter right. And though he was thankful for what had happened, and honoured the seceders for what they had done, still he must say that they were not yet in a safe position, for they still held by the establishment principle. They claim to be the true church, and insist that all the endowments of the establishment in justice belong to them, and he believed they would take the money to-morrow if they could obtain it on their own terms [cheers]. This was their danger. He cautioned voluntaries against trusting too much to the professions of political leaders, and concluded an excellent speech amidst great applause.

Councillor Russell seconded the motion.

The Rev. Andrew Nicol proposed the third resolution:—

"That this meeting, seeing the strong determination which still exists among those in power to uphold church establishments in all their wealth and assumption of superiority and exclusiveness (of which spirit the bill now in parliament for the division of parishes in Scotland affords abundant proof) feel convinced that all friends of civil and religious liberty are called upon to redouble their exertions for the removal of the enormous evils of a state-endowed church."

The reverend gentleman said, that notwithstanding the favourable position of voluntarism at present, the friends of the cause ought to be on the alert against any blow that might be aimed at them. He then explained the nature of the bill for the division of parishes, from which he did not anticipate much harm. He believed it, however, to be a measure proposed for the purpose of feeling the pulse of the country.

The Rev. Mr Robertson seconded the motion which, with the others, were carried by acclamation. Dr Young concluded with prayer.

DERBY.—An auxiliary to the British Anti-state-church Association has been formed at Derby. A committee for the management of its affairs have been appointed, and several of the dissenting churches have been induced to lend their aid for the furtherance of its object. It has been thought that public lectures would be of great good in informing the minds of the ignorant, and of exciting inquiry; consequently, Mr Gawthorn, the senior pastor of the congregational church, has kindly consented to deliver the first lecture, in connexion with the association, "On the difference between things sacred and things civil." It is in contemplation to establish a library, and to circulate intelligence by the distribution of tracts.

CHURCH RATES.—PARISH OF ST MARY, NEWINGTON.—On Friday evening a public vestry was held at the vestry room, by adjournment from the 31st ult., for the purpose of making a church rate. A report of the previous meeting appeared in a late number. On that occasion a rate of one halfpenny in the pound was proposed, for the ostensible purpose of paying the chaplain of the workhouse the sum of £60. That rate would have netted the sum of £250, and was almost unanimously refused. Since the last vestry the greatest excitement has prevailed throughout the parish. Mr Churchwarden Brown took the

chair; and, the rate being proposed, Mr Green, baptist minister, moved an adjournment of twenty-one days. This the Chairman at first refused to put it to the meeting; but, having eventually been submitted, it was carried by an overwhelming majority. It was ultimately agreed that the amendment should be withdrawn, and the question of the rate was put to the meeting, and negatived by a large majority. A poll was demanded, and will take place on Tuesday and Wednesday, July 16 and 17. Both parties expressed themselves confident of success.

EXCESSIVE DISTRESS AND EXTORTION FOR VICAR DUES, AT IDLE.—Shylock has been taking his pound of flesh, and something more, at Idle. A correspondent says, that the agents of the vicar of Calverley have lately visited Idle in their official capacity of "reaping where they have not sown, and gathering where they have not strewed." Some weeks ago, these agents called upon Mr Hodgson, of Idle, to inquire if he was willing to pay what was due to the vicar of Calverley from himself and his late uncle, but without stating any specific sum. Mr H. said he was not willing to pay his uncle's debts, and that, if he was, he never had an uncle who had lived where they now claimed money for; and as for himself, he was sure he did not owe the vicar of Calverley anything for any services performed on his account. Soon after this, Mr H. was summoned for refusing to pay what were called "offerings, oblations, and obventions," but still no specific sum was stated. Mr Hodgson, not believing they were in earnest, did not appear to the summons. He was next served, for the first time, with a specific demand of 8s. 9d. for the said offerings and costs, said to be due from himself and his uncle. As Mr H. did not think fit to pay this demand, on Wednesday, the 12th instant, he was again visited by three of these persevering agents, who seized and carried off a piece of cloth of upwards of £6 value. On Monday, the 17th instant, the bellman walked from the New inn, where the cloth was to be sold, to his own house, and announced, with a feeble voice, that the sale was about to take place by private contract. At the time appointed, there was a thin attendance of buyers, and the cloth was sold by the bellman for £3 3s., although £4 was offered for it at the same time and place, and the person who bought the cloth soon after sold it again for £6 3s.; so that Mr Hodgson's loss from this management will be £3. It will be known whether Mr H. will tamely submit to such a tyrannical extortion and wilful waste of his property. A similar demand had been made of Mr Jenkins, of Idle, but for a less sum; and a quantity of sugar, above £1 in value, was seized and sold at the same time, and nothing has been returned. Thus have two persons been treated who do not belong to the church community, and receive no benefit from it; whilst many others have been passed over, who have not, and will not, pay such dues, though belonging to and receiving the benefit of such communion.—*Bradford Observer*.

THE VOLUNTARY PRINCIPLE IN OPERATION.—Last Sunday week, after sermons preached by the Rev. Dr Hook, the sum of £51 6s. 10d. was collected at the parish church in Leeds, for the expenses of divine worship in that edifice. How much more honourable this is to the congregation, and how much more satisfactory to the public, than the collection for that cost in the way of compulsory church rates.—*Leeds Mercury*.

THE ALMONRY AND THE DEAN AND CHAPTER OF WESTMINSTER.—The Bishop of Gloucester, spite of his incorrect statements in the House of Lords and the assistance of the *Morning Herald* and *Standard*, will find that he cannot suppress the truth in reference to the "dens of infamy" leased of him and his colleagues in Westminster. A writer in the *Morning Chronicle* dares him to move for a committee of inquiry on the subject, and suggests the following queries for answer:—

"1. Have not the Dean and Chapter of Westminster been for many years fully cognisant of the manner their property has been occupied?"

"2. Although their leases are nominally for forty years, yet is it not the fact, that these leases are renewed every seven years? and have not these leases been renewed by the Dean and Chapter after they had been occupied as brothels?"

"3. Did they not attempt to renew these very leases when the time expired, some four or five years ago, to their old lessee?"

"4. Could not the Dean and Chapter have removed all the tenants of their property under the common law of the land, under which houses of a similar character have been removed in other parts of the town?"

"6. Were the Dean and Chapter fearful, that if they had taken such steps they might not have been met by the defence—When we took this property it was so occupied; we paid you money for the renewal; and, however the public may complain, you ought not to interfere, for you have received part profit?"

"I have other questions, even more important, but I will not forget them; and in reply to the assertion of the Bishop of Gloucester, 'that two years ago it had been communicated to him, for the first time in his life, that there stood upon the property of the Dean and Chapter of Westminster, in the Almonry, houses of ill-fame,' would propose this question:—

"Was not the Bishop of Gloucester made acquainted with the fact in the year 1837, and had he not a long conversation with a member of the House of Commons on the subject? And to bring the subject more forcibly to the memory of the reverend Bishop, I will mention that the statement of which he complained was this:—'That the manner in which the Dean and Chapter of Westminster use their property was a curse to the district.'"

"Waiting for a reply, either from the Bishop, the Dean and Chapter, or their surveyor, who 'could a tale unfold,'

"I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
"A FRIEND TO TRUTH."

THE WORKHOUSE CHAPLAINCY QUESTION.—The inhabitants of Coventry have, during the past week, made a spirited and successful resistance to an attempt on the part of the directors of the poor, to engage a workhouse chaplain against the wishes of the ratepayers. A numerously attended meeting was held in St Mary's hall, on Monday morning, the mayor (J. S. Whittem, Esq.) in the chair, when strong and decided resolutions against the anticipated design of the directors of the poor, were adopted and embodied in a memorial to that board. The directors met on Wednesday, when the motion for appointing a chaplain was met with the following amendment:—

"That the meeting of the guardians, held on the 1st of Jan., 1807, having determined that their authority to appoint a chaplain should not be carried into effect, their resolution be confirmed, and it is ordered that no chaplain be appointed by the directors."

The amendment was carried. It was further resolved, upon the motion of Mr ENGLAND, seconded by Mr BRUNSKILL—

"That a respectful memorial be sent from the board to the clergy and ministers of the United parishes, requesting they will make arrangements for regularly visiting the sick inmates in the workhouse, and that a committee of Mr Grove, Mr Odell, Mr Sargeant, and Mr Robins, do prepare the memorial."

CONVENTION OF VOLUNTARISTS IN JAMAICA.—In addition to the resolutions passed at the general meeting, reported in our last number, the following were adopted at an adjourned meeting in the evening:—

"I. That believing all ecclesiastical institutions established by law, and maintained by compulsory means, to be contrary to the spirit of Christianity, at variance with the rights of conscience, oppressive in their influence, and calculated to corrupt the doctrines, and retard the progress, of gospel truth, we resolve ourselves into a Society to attempt the removal of such evil.

"II. That this Society be denominated the Jamaica Voluntary Church Association.

"III. That the object of this Society be to effect, by the use of moral and constitutional means, the annihilation of all compulsory church establishments, and thus to place every ecclesiastical institution on an equal footing of voluntary support.

"IV. That this Society be governed by a treasurer, three secretaries, a central committee in Kingston, and two auxiliary committees; one to be situated on the north side of the island, and one in Clarendon.

"V. That the Rev. Samuel Oughton be treasurer of the Society, Dr Francis Carbutt Fairbank, the secretary of the Central committee; the Rev. William Garland Barrett, the secretary of the Clarendon committee; and —, the secretary of the north-side committee.

"VI. That every member of this Society be a corresponding member to communicate information to each of the secretaries relative to the objects of this Society.

"VII. That any person holding the principles of the Society, and contributing the sum of 4s. per annum, be a member of this Society, and that such member be eligible to attend all general committee meetings.

"VIII. That the first annual meeting of the Society be held at such time and place as may be agreed upon by the three secretaries, and that they be empowered to call a general annual meeting of the Society at any other time, not giving less than three weeks' notice.

"IX. That the secretaries of this Society be instructed to write to the secretaries of the Anti-state-church Convention in London, to state fully the circumstances under which this Association is formed, the disabilities under which the electoral body in Jamaica are placed, and the fact that the burden of labour and expense must fall principally upon the missionaries of various denominations, and to solicit the friends of the voluntary principle at home, to aid the Jamaica society in its endeavour to give consistency and effect to the voluntary principle in Jamaica, and to request the London society to allow this colonial association to be affiliated with them."

FOURTH IMPRISONMENT OF PASTOR MÜNSTER IN COPENHAGEN.—The pertinacity with which the authorities in Denmark continue their persecutions of the quiet and inoffensive baptists, in the capital and other parts of that protestant state, is remarkable. That excellent and devoted man, Mr Münster, the pastor of the baptist church in Copenhagen, has, for the fourth time within five years, been thrown into prison, and this time under severer restrictions than on any previous occasion. Formerly, when incarcerated, he might write to his friends: now he must write to no one. Before, he might be visited by members of his flock, and enjoy their sympathy: now, no one is allowed to see him, but his wife, his daughter, and his professional adviser. The number of the members of his church is now nearly 300; and in other parts of the kingdom, there are little bands of disciples, contending for their views of the truth in opposition to the errors and superstition of the state church. The clergy say: "This is not to be endured." They have so far succeeded in their attempts to crush Mr Münster and his brethren, as to prevent the King from granting them a "concession" to carry on their worship unmolested. The friends of liberty of conscience in this country may, however, help forward the cause greatly; and there is one way, an easy and an inexpensive one, in which they may greatly serve our brethren now struggling against the tyranny of a state church in Denmark. They can forward to the Danish Ambassador at this court memorials and petitions on behalf of Mr Münster and the other baptists in Denmark, now suffering persecution. Let representations be poured in from all parts of Britain, and from all denominations of Christians, to his excellency in this country, with a request that they be forwarded to the proper authority; and we have reason to know that they will exert a good influence.—*Patriot*.

PRIZE ESSAY ON POPULAR EDUCATION.—The sum of one hundred guineas, offered by a liberal churchman of Manchester, through Dr Vaughan, for the best essay on that subject, has been awarded by the adjudicators to an essay from the pen of Dr Hamilton, of Leeds.

Correspondence.

SLAVE-GROWN PRODUCE.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR—When a philanthropist like Mr Sturge, who is usually so very clear-sighted to every principle of justice and humanity, takes what many eminent advocates of free trade consider the illiberal side of the question, respecting the expediency of discriminating duties to diminish slavery, it seems to me a sufficient reason for prolonging the discussion, provided it be done from the sole desire of eliciting the truth, to the exclusion of any paltry design of preserving the integrity of a party, or of defeating an opponent.

I fully coincide in the view of Mr Sturge and his anti-slavery friends, that the produce of slave labour is the stolen property of the stolen man; and therefore recommend every individual who feels a conscientious objection to the use of such articles, to abstain, not from sugar only, but from every article that is produced by oppression and injustice. Let them form societies of such abstainers. But let them not go to any government, and especially not to a government that has shamelessly violated every principle of justice, and say—"Now we are very conscientious; can't you make our fellow-countrymen conscientious also, that we may be a religious nation, and may reasonably expect the blessing of Providence on our affairs?"

When we reflect that Christians are not so much required to perform good works, as to do them from a pure motive, and by the most righteous means, how can we bring ourselves to suppose that taxation, though good when applied solely to the end for which it was originally designed, is a proper instrument for the Anti-slavery Society to work with, even on this new system of doing good by proxy? It is certainly not the proper sphere of government to lay a tax upon sin, though from the laudable motive of preventing the commission of crime. This proposal to go to the legislature and beseech it to cram sound principles of Christianity down the throat of an unwilling people, is so unlike the genuine fruit of love to God, which ought to be the spontaneous offering of the heart, that I cannot bring myself to believe that slavery can be successfully combated, or a nation be made conscientious, by any such compulsory measures.

Fully admitting the justice of that principle which would leave the great market of the world unfettered and unencumbered, and believing that free labour will, in the long run, be found more profitable than slave labour, we are not to run from our first conclusions because this liberty of trade will be greatly abused, and much ill-gotten wealth be offered for sale. Commodities, I am aware, will then, as now, be found with the devil's own mark upon them; Babylonish treasure will glitter in that mart, and there will be "slaves and souls of men." Money Moses may also be there, and it will be the duty of that government to which he belongs, to look after the thief, the stolen goods, and the receiver of the stolen goods, and by all legitimate means to prevent the repetition of such crimes. But this good end is not to be brought about by the government laying its discriminating finger on the suspected article in the shape of a tax on stolen plate, to bring it to the same price as that which is honestly obtained, or by any other kind of commercial restriction. Neither is it the proper sphere of government to interfere with the liberty of those of its subjects who go to market, in the simplicity of their hearts, to avail themselves of the cheapest offer, and acting on the apostle's maxim, ask no questions for conscience' sake—to interfere, I say, with their liberty by excluding the article they require from that market. Perhaps our opponents may concede a little blindness to these purchasers, as to the manner by which these commodities are produced, since the peace-loving members of the Anti-slavery Society can wink so hard at the blockading squadron, and other extremities of a physical force government. I should be ashamed here to offer any argument in support of so self-evident a truth as, that unrestricted commerce is a sound and just principle of universal application to all things in which man can hold property. No man has a right to prevent me from going to the fair lest I should buy the stolen horse, or having done so, to charge me, on that account, with being a participator in the theft; yet it is the business of the government functionary, and the duty of all honest men, to look after the stolen horse, and see that it be restored to its owner. The policeman may take the horse from me, but I must be indemnified for the loss. This impediment, I presume, does not come under the definition of commercial restriction; but whether so or not, in this way only can the government have a right to interfere with the ordinary transactions of commerce. I utterly deny all right of property in man, and admit that it is the duty of every government to prevent its own subjects from buying or selling their fellow-men; but when this principle is to be extended to articles produced by the slaves of another country, and brought to our market for sale, it then becomes, if it were only for the utter impossibility of stretching legislation so far, a private question of religion and morality—a test of individual principle. It would establish a very dangerous precedent to absolve our government, in such and similar cases, from the political guilt of imposing commercial prohibitions, in order to chastise the subjects of another empire, and preserve the moral purity of our own. This principle of government interference is so very much like doing evil that good may come, that I cannot but hope the Anti-slavery Society will, ere long, discover some more effective mode of assailing this enormous outrage of slavery than that of setting one just principle at variance with another. I remain, sir,

Your obedient servant,

Hull, June 28th, 1844.

A NON-ELECTOR.

SIR R. PEEL'S RESTRICTION ACT.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR—It appears to me that you and your opponent in this matter are arguing upon different grounds. His letter discusses the merits of the proposed bill, as compared with the system now in operation—and though it is evident in principle he favours the measure, he does not attempt its defence, but merely states what he thinks are the advantages likely to result from it. You, on the contrary, disapprove of the principle of interference upon which the bill is founded; and your remarks would apply with as much force to the Currency bill of 1819, as

to this improved modification of it. Indeed its enactment has literally brought upon us the very evils you predict from the present alteration—our condition has become gradually worse ever since 1819.

The fact is becoming daily more apparent, that the contracted and unhealthy state of our currency is at the bottom of much of our commercial difficulty, and the efficient cause of our wide-spread destitution. Upon the supposition that the destructive power of the country is equal to its productive power, how can we account for the enormous accumulation of wealth on the one hand, and dreadful depletion on the other?

The anti-corn-law question has occupied too much attention—the people have never had opportunity for information upon the momentous question of the currency—the time is coming when they will see the importance of it. An expansive system of currency would virtually repeal them, or, at all events, materially mitigate their evils. A "free currency league" would have done more for the permanent prosperity of the country, than the Anti-corn-law League can ever do. It is important that the people should understand these subjects, that they may know what will avail them, now that the onward course of complete suffrage promises them the speedy means of securing its enactment; for then, as now, they will want "measures not men."

Our distributive power must be allowed to expand in the same proportion as our productive means. Gold, like other commodities, must be allowed to find its own legitimate level in the market; and a sound and expansive currency system must be built up on the ruins of Peel's bill, ere our worthy, and toiling, and oppressed productive classes can regain their former prosperity.

I am, sir, with much respect,

SPECTATOR.

CURRENCY.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

DEAR SIR—I should not have ventured again to trespass on your space, nor on the patience of your readers, on this not very popular question, had you not, in some measure, invited me to do so, in the remarks you threw out in your last number. Besides, the subject, though dry, is really one of great importance to the public, concerning as it does every individual in these realms. Money is the commodity employed to measure the value of every other commodity, from a bunch of matches up to the largest property in the kingdom. It enters into the daily or weekly transactions of every man, and any alteration in its value is, therefore, fraught with grave consequences to all and sundry. I know of no one department in the whole range of economic science, saving an abundant supply of food, that more concerns the community, than steadiness in the value of the currency.

I agree entirely, therefore, with you, in deprecating any measure that would have a tendency to enhance it, by preventing an increase, according to the wants of an increasing population and an increasing trade. This would be as unjust to debtors as a lowering of its value would be to creditors.

Your reasoning and conclusions I hold to be perfectly logical, provided your premises are sound. These may be summed up, I think, in the following sentences in your remarks—viz., "Any large increase of gold to that already in hand, we are not warranted in expecting; and, by Sir Robert Peel's bill, all expansion, beyond a fixed limit, of paper currency is prevented. The maximum of circulation, therefore, may be regarded as virtually prescribed by law." Here you and I must part company. I admit at once that, by the new bill, the amount of paper issued on securities being fixed, any increase of our currency must arise from an increased supply of gold; and this is precisely what, in my view, constitutes the chief merit of the measure. But I do not admit that there is the least danger of our not obtaining the supply of gold (whether great or small) which may be required to meet the wants of increasing transactions, so as to prevent any enhancement in the value of money; and consequently I cannot admit that Peel's bill "prescribes" in any degree "the maximum of circulation."

In the first place, the supply of gold throughout the world has of late been rather on the increase. The Russian mines alone (a new source of supply) are producing a considerable quantity annually. And should there arise a greater demand for that metal than at present, there can be no reason to doubt that more capital would be employed in procuring it, on the very same principle that more iron and coal are brought to the earth's surface than formerly.

In the second place, the additional quantity of gold required by us will be very trifling for a long time to come: nay, my impression is, that we could spare a part of that which we now have; for I am not sure that we shall not be able to carry on a larger trade with a smaller amount of currency than at present. This statement may at first sight appear paradoxical; but, in advancing it, I am only drawing on our past experience. It is a fact generally admitted, though not, perhaps, exactly susceptible of calculation, that our circulation at present does not much exceed that employed fifty or sixty years ago, when our trade was little more than half of what it is now.

This phenomenon is accounted for by the means used to economise the currency, or, in other words, to render necessary a smaller amount of currency to perform the same functions, without altering its relative value as compared with other commodities.

These means are improvements in the system of banking and of internal and international communication. In the former, take for example the "deposit" branch, which unites in one sum, applicable to the purposes of commerce innumerable smaller sums that used to lie dormant in the chests and desks of individuals. Again, the system of cheques permits payments to a large amount to be made with a comparatively small sum of money. In London this is shown by the returns from the "clearing house," where, in one year, payments are made (by exchanging cheques) to the extent of about a thousand millions, without more money than seven to eight per cent. being used in the process. Once more, between different towns payments are made and accounts balanced, by means of bills and banks, with a comparatively small amount of currency; and, where balances have actually to be transmitted in money, much time is now saved. The money reaches its destination sooner, and is ready in a few hours, or days, to perform fresh functions, instead of being detained weeks and months, as formerly, on the way.

There is little doubt, I think, but these means of economising the currency will be improved, particularly

as regards banking in provincial towns, by railways, to an extent that will meet the wants of increased trade for a century to come, without, perhaps, requiring an additional ounce of gold—at all events, to an extent that may render us quite at our ease as regards the value of our circulating medium. The processes are so subtle that combine to fix the necessary amount of currency in any country, and so far beyond the ken of humanity, that I cannot conceive anything more absurd, I might almost say wicked, than to leave it to be regulated by any human contrivance so clumsy as paper. I do think we have reason to thank Sir Robert Peel that he will no longer leave a set of interested persons to tamper with the circulating medium, and, through it, with the property and comfort of the community, by substituting for gold, paper, which costs them only the expense of throwing it off.

If anything could show the folly of permitting such a mischievous system to continue, it would be the fact that the man who issues paper money is the debtor of the public to the extent of his issues; and yet he is receiving interest on the debt he owes! This shows that there is something amiss somewhere in the system. At all events there is a great temptation to make the paper circulation expand, not according to the wants of trade, but according to the interest of the issuer or the wants of the speculator! This is made pretty evident by the conduct of the country bankers, in pressing the minister into consenting to enlarge their *quota* upwards of half a million.

In future our currency will be more in unison with that of the rest of the world, as the small difference of two per cent. between this and any country in Europe will suffice to pay expenses, and leave a profit to the money dealer; and when a money dealer can gain a profit, we are as sure of a supply of his commodity as of any other. You lay it down as a condition of a circulating medium, "that it should represent the whole property of a country." Would it not be more correct to say that it should be in sufficient quantity to conduct all the exchanges of a country?—for that in reality is the use of money. It is not necessary that it should represent all the exchanges made, as the same piece of money may be employed to make several payments in the same day; still I admit that there must be some definite, though unknown, proportion between the amount of money and amount of property exchanged. I have shown that any given proportion may be distributed by rendering money more efficient. In some respects, money is like the weights in a grocer's shop, which serve to weigh various commodities one after another; but it is not necessary to have weights to weigh all the commodities at one time, nor currency to exchange the whole at one time. An increase of weights, like an increase of currency, would be required when more shops were opened, or more goods had to be weighed and exchanged; except, indeed, where some improvement in the scales, &c., rendered the process quicker, which would be a case analogous to the process already described, of economising the currency.

Trusting I have made my meaning sufficiently clear, on a dry subject somewhat uninteresting to the general reader, I remain respectfully, dear Sir,

Your obedient servant,

London, 28th June, 1844.

MERCATOR.

TAHITI AND THE LONDON MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR—Some two or three weeks ago you published, from the *Baptist Magazine*, I think, for May, a law passed in Tahiti in 1838, by which the system of religion taught by the agents of the London Missionary Society was made the law-established religion of that island. To the operation of that law, all the evils which have befallen the Queen and people of Tahiti are to be ascribed; as that provoked French aggression. Now, is not the London Missionary Society responsible for that intolerant law? Did ever that society or its agents apply, either directly or indirectly, for some such kind of enactment? Was that law passed without the knowledge and approbation of one or both of those parties? Did the society or its agents oppose the passing of such a law, or seek its repeal when passed?

It is my conviction that that infamous law would never have passed the Tahitian legislature, if it had been consistently opposed by the London Missionary Society. Were the righteousness of English dissenters forming state establishments for themselves in their missionary stations? If my conviction is right, the London Missionary Society is only reaping the fruits of its own inconsistent intolerance. As one of the public, appealed to for sympathy with that society, I have a right to demand explanation; and I do demand explanation, full, candid, and clear. To me, the taciturnity of the society on this point is very suspicious. I shall rejoice to see a satisfactory explanation; which is due to the public, and to the principles of Christian truth and consistency.

I am, sir, yours, &c.,

H. W.

A letter from Mr Sharman Crawford, in Ireland, to Mr Cobden, has been published in the papers, stating that, had he been able to be present at the division on Mr Miles's motion, he should have given his vote along with Mr Cobden and his free trade friends on the side of ministers. He says:—"I was proud to see that you voted on principle, and that you did not sacrifice the integrity of that principle to the paltry objects of party expediency."

THE CARLTON AND ITS OBNOXIOUS MEMBER.—The *Court Journal* announces that the Carlton club intends speedily to dissolve, for the purpose of reconstructing itself, to the exclusion of the member (supposed to be Mr D'Israeli) who reported a private meeting for the *Times* last week. The *Times* quotes the statement; condemns the pretended intention of the members; and doubts its truth, remarking, that if the proceedings of clubs be of such a secret character that their promulgation is to be thus punished, they might be proceeded against as conspiracies. In this case there is a "previous question," which the *Times* has overlooked. The meeting reported in the newspaper was not a meeting of the club, but of members of parliament, who used the premises as a tavern, for other than club objects. Query—Is such a meeting entitled to the club privilege of privacy?—*Spectator*.]

Imperial Parliament.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

PETITIONS FOR THE WEEK.

Bank of England Charter bill, against, 11.
Bank of Ireland Charter, against renewal of, 22.
Commons Enclosure bill, against, 1.
Corn laws, against repeal of, 1037.
—for repeal of, 1.
County Courts bill, for, 4.
—against, 1.
Dissenters' Chapels bill, against, 54.
—for, 6.
Ecclesiastical Courts bill, against, 1.
Marriages (Ireland), to legalise, 3.
Poor Law, for amendment of, 3.
Post Office, against opening letters, 6.
Registration of Electors (Ireland) bill, against, 41.
St Asaph and Bangor dioceses, against union of, 3.
Union with Ireland, for repeal of, 40.

BILLS READ A FIRST TIME.

Field Gardens bill.
Sudbury Disfranchisement bill.
County Rates bill.
Butter and Cheese bill.
Turnpike Trusts (South Wales) bill.
Stock in Trade bill.
Militia Ballots Suspension bill.
Vagrants Removal bill.

BILL READ A SECOND TIME.

Coroners (Ireland) bill.

CONSIDERED IN COMMITTEE.

Detached Parts of Counties bill.
Joint Stock Companies bill.
Bank of England Charter bill.
Education bill.
Linen Manufactures (Ireland) bill.
Charitable Loan Societies (Ireland) bill.
Prisons (Scotland) bill.
Unlawful Oaths (Ireland) bill.

BILLS READ A THIRD TIME.

Sugar Duties bill.
Dissenters' Chapels bill.
Education bill.

DEBATES.

Wednesday, June 26, 1844.

REPEAL OF THE CORN LAWS.

The adjourned debate on Mr Villiers's motion, which embraced the following resolution, was resumed:—

"That it appears, by a recent census, that the people of this country are rapidly increasing in number. That it is in evidence before this House, that a large proportion of her Majesty's subjects are insufficiently provided with the first necessities of life. That, nevertheless, a corn law is in force which restricts the supply of food, and thereby lessens its abundance. That any such restriction, having for its object to impede the free purchase of an article upon which depends the subsistence of the community, is indefensible in principle, injurious in operation, and ought to be abolished. That it is therefore expedient that the act 5 and 6 Vic. c. 14 shall be repealed forthwith."

There was little appearance of interest within the House: the opposition benches were very empty during the greater part of the night, and the front bench, generally occupied by the whig leaders, was at times quite deserted.

Mr STAFFORD O'BRIEN was the first speaker; and he delivered himself of a long tirade against the Anti-corn-law League, of which he gave the history. He quoted speeches and read documents very abundantly, for the purpose of showing that the League had endeavoured to carry their objects by intimidation, by exciting the people against the landowners, by false representations and delusive promises, and by unconstitutional interference with the elections.

Captain LAYARD amused the House by several curious illustrations of his opinions against the corn laws. Sir Robert Peel had been coquetting with the agriculturists, who were beginning to think him a false friend: Captain Layard advised him to leave them altogether, and frankly follow the practice as well as adopt the principles of free trade.

He had seen Sir Robert at the Opera-house, witnessing the ballet of Ondine; and he could not avoid likening him to Cerito in pursuit of the shadow. The graceful Cerito seemed a fair and lovely representation of free trade, flitting and dancing as it continually is before the mental vision of the right honourable baronet. And when Ondine, in her moonlight flitting across the stage, is startled and alarmed at her own shadow, how just a representation, though certainly a more elegant one, of what happened to the right honourable baronet, when he, coming out of the shade, first ventured to broach free-trade principles! How he started back—not indeed so gracefully as the fair Cerito—when he saw, not indeed his own shadow, but the shade which came over the mournful countenances of the agricultural members! He trusted that the right honourable baronet would give up coquetting, after the manner of Cerito, with the shadow; and that, becoming completely enamoured, when he opened his arms to embrace it, it would be found he had clasped the reality and not the shadow of free trade.

Colonel RUSHBROOKE and Lord RENDLESHAM opposed the motion. The former stated, in reference to the alleged causes of incendiarism, that the farm-labourers in Suffolk had never been so well fed or so well clothed as at present, and that they were very contented.

Mr WARD protested against having the time of the House wasted by attacks on the Anti-corn-law League. The imitation of the League by the pro-corn-law League, in all things but its talent, ought to have prevented Mr S. O'Brien, one of the patrons of the latter, from attacking their prototype so unsparingly. After some other personalities—allusions to the absence of Lord Ashley and "Young England," &c.—Mr Ward went on to express a hope that Sir Robert Peel would carry out his own views without restraint from his usual supporters; and contrasted the qualifications of Sir Robert as a leader in the

cause of free trade with those of Lord John Russell.

Would he do but one-half of what he professed in theory, the free traders would be too happy to receive him as their leader. He was the more wanted from the dogged pertinacity of the noble member for London, who stuck by his fixed duty, which nobody asked for [cheers and laughter]. "Whenever you get tired of the right honourable baronet," said the noble lord, "whenever that unhappy lovers' quarrel breaks out afresh, look to me [laughter]. If the worst comes to the worst, you have me at your service: and you know I adhere to the 'great principle' of a fixed duty—we'll talk about the amount when the proper time comes" [renewed laughter]. If the right honourable baronet only held out the hope that the time might come when he would part company with the drag-chains now hanging about him, and work out even a small portion of the large and extensive theories which he put in so comprehensive a shape before the country, there was no man whom he should half so much like to follow as a leader. The right honourable gentleman made great battle for a bad cause: if he had to urge sound principles, his eloquence would render them perfectly irresistible. The present corn law, it was said, should have a fair trial. For how many years was the trial to continue?—was it one, two, three, four, or ten years? He very much doubted whether the President of the Board of Trade would have made the speech he did yesterday, if the timely shower which we had did not raise the hopes of the agriculturists [laughter].

Sir JOHN TROLLOPE asserted the right of agriculture to protection, from the special demands on it and the restrictions under which it was placed. Lincolnshire could grow tobacco with great advantage; but the law prohibited its production in England. The pro-corn-law League, he said, had been formed by the tenants, and not by the landlords, for the purpose of protecting the agricultural interest from the attacks of the Anti-corn-law League.

Mr MILNER GIBSON advocated an absolute repeal of the corn law, as the best means of settling the question, for landlords, farmers, and labourers. It could not be settled until all restriction was abolished; and the farmers were only deceiving themselves if they relied on Sir Robert Peel's declaration in favour of maintaining the existing law. Sir Robert had never given a distinct pledge to that effect: all he had said was that he had no change to propose at present. He called upon the Paymaster of the Forces to come forward and say what was the ground on which the landed proprietors of this country claimed to themselves, as matter of right, the privilege of interfering with the freedom of the industry of others. He had learned, from Paley, that every restraint was, *per se*, an evil, and that it was incumbent on those who defended it to prove its advantage beyond the shadow of doubt. Unless, then, they proved the advantages of the corn laws, he contended that he was entitled to demand the immediate abolition of this restraint. He called upon landlords to consider the nature of the possession for which they now claimed a vested interest. At the time when these laws were passed, parliament was exclusively composed of landowners, and it was passed with the sole view of keeping up rents. Lord Byron had said of the conduct of the landowners in parliament at the close of the war:—

The last to bid the cry of warfare cease,
The first to make a malady of peace:
For what were all these country patriots born?
To hunt, and vote, and raise the price of corn.

Again, the poet observed of their conduct during the war itself:—

Safe in their barns, these Sabine tillers sent
Their brethren out to battle—why? For rent!
Year after year they voted cent per cent,
Blood, sweat, and tear wrung millions—why? For rent!
They roared, they dined, they drank, they swore,
They meant
To die for England—why then live? For rent!
The peace has made one general discontent
Of these high-market patriots; war was rent!
Their love of country, millions all misspent,
How reconcile?—By reconciling rent.
And will they not repay the treasures lent?
No, down with everything, but up with rent!
Their good, ill, health, wealth, joy, or discontent,
Being, end, aim, religion—rent! rent! rent!

It had been clearly and distinctly stated, in the other house of parliament, that the corn laws were maintained for the benefit of the aristocracy and of the landed proprietors. The people, however, would no longer submit to the tyranny of the landowners.

Mr G. BANKES reconciled his opposition to this motion with his vote on the factory question, on the broad ground that this measure would be injurious to the labouring population. He combated the statements of Lord Howick respecting the condition of the population in Dorsetshire; and contended that they were as well fed, clothed, and lodged, as the labouring population in Northumberland. He remarked on the tone of defiance in which Mr Villiers had delivered his speech, daring the members on the ministerial side of the House to make assertions; seemingly forgetting that he was not at a League meeting at Covent Garden theatre, where if any one "dared" to dissent from the regular speakers, he was taken out by a policeman.

Mr HUTT supported the motion for a committee, but with a view to a low fixed duty; he would not at present support an absolute repeal.

Mr CORDEN complained of the abuse which had been lavished on the League; for the purpose, as it would seem, of diverting attention from the main subject. This conduct reminded him of a barrister who got a brief handed to him in a bad case, which was marked "No case; please to abuse plaintiff's attorney." The League, however, was too strong to be put down by calling names. The real question they had to consider was, whether the corn law, and the system of protection of which it was a part, was just to the nation at large, and tended to promote

the national prosperity. It was a one-sided system of protection, confined to the products of agriculture. By the corn law they were continuing the great evils of class legislation, which were deeply felt in all trading and manufacturing communities. Mr Cobden avowed himself an advocate for free trade in all commodities: what he wished most earnestly for was, a fair and full opportunity of being able to show that a carrying out of free trade in every department of commerce was the true interest of the nation. As a question of revenue, the duties raised on protected articles were not worth putting in the balance against the evils the protection occasioned. The total amount was but £2,500,000; which might be amply compensated by equalising the duties on colonial produce. He referred to the opinions of Mr Deacon Hume, to show that the removal of protection must have the effect of improving the revenue. He challenged the ministers, and Lord Stanley more particularly, to satisfy the people that protection was for the good of the nation.

SIR ROBERT PEEL began by bantering the members of the Anti-corn-law League on their performances at Covent Garden theatre—

It is not my intention to occupy much of their time upon an occasion when this House has been engaged for the benefit of a company which generally performs at Covent Garden. It is with great reluctance that I do anything having the least tendency to prevent their enjoying a full benefit; and I must say I was very sorry to observe, that during the early part of the performance the front bench on the other side of the House was wholly unoccupied [laughter]. I can assure the honourable members opposite—many of whom assisted at my benefit the other night—that I had no desire to be the cause of depriving them of a fuller audience. Throughout the evening I have been here, as well as my honourable friends near me, to witness the performances of that class of gentlemen now present who have rehearsed their parts upon another stage.

He was glad to find that Mr Cobden had delivered a homily against calling names.

"Well, it's a very bad practice; but it happens that those who are the most lavish in their attacks upon others, and in throwing imputations upon the motives of others, are very often those who shrink the most from the application of a similar instrument to themselves [loud cheers from the ministerial benches]. I think, if there be any party in this House who deal largely in the practice of affixing odious imputations to the motives of those from whom they dissent as to political measures, it is that very party of which the honourable gentleman is so distinguished a member. I don't defend the practice, but the example provokes retaliation. The honourable gentleman says, 'How is the Anti-corn-law League to be defeated?' I believe that they have greatly diminished their own power by the use of the instrument which they have employed. I believe that the Anti-corn-law League have provoked on the part of the tenantry of this country the utmost indignation, from their use of unjust imputations, and from the practice of attributing base, selfish, and interested motives to honourable members. I believe they have provoked that indignation which has led to the combination against their proceedings [cheers from the ministerial benches].

Sir R. Peel then spoke decidedly in favour of protection to agriculture:—

I defend protection to agriculture [vociferous cheers from the government benches, and from the benches behind] on the principle, and to the extent, to which I have defended it before [renewed cheers from the ministerial benches]. He had a strong feeling that agriculture in this country was entitled to protection, on account of the special burdens it had to bear, especially the poor rates, and the restrictions to which it was subjected. He was confident that even those who professed themselves anxious for immediate repeal of the corn law would be frightened by their own act if they succeeded. He believed that it was for the interest of all classes in this artificial state of society to deal cautiously and dispassionately with the removal of such prohibitions. According to abstract principles of political economy, the doctrines of free trade were no doubt true. But parliament could not act upon abstract principles in treating a question like this. The agricultural labourers in Ireland, when thrown out of work, might indeed seek employment in Manchester or Coventry; but, in point of fact, many circumstances would prevent them. "You may rejoice and indulge in these theories of modern philosophy and political economy; but when you have endangered and destroyed the peace and happiness of a nation, you will have but a sorry return for your pains [cheers]. Looking, then, at the long endurance of the protection, at the amount of capital involved in agriculture, and the position of the population dependent on agriculture, and at the interests, not merely of the landlords and tenants, but the comprehensive interests of all classes of the community, I must give my solemn and unqualified opposition to this proposal for the immediate removal of the present protection to agriculture. But I will not shrink from the other question: am I prepared, then, as I am opposed to the immediate removal of protection, to bring under the consideration of the House any modified proposition for altering the amount of protection determined upon two years ago, and carried into effect with the general concurrence of the agricultural interest? I say at once, I am not prepared to do so."

He criticised Lord John Russell's course in declining to vote. As to the course of the government, he thought that, if the principle of protection was admitted at all, as it was by Lord John Russell's own suggestion of a fixed duty, it was better to leave the law as it is, than to be unsettling it with small alterations. He was convinced that the present law worked better than a fixed duty of 8s. It was remarkable how little had been advanced in this debate against the present law, after a trial of two years; and he proceeded to show, by a variety of tests, the successful working of it, and the total defeat of all the adverse predictions respecting its effects. Lord Howick had said it was the poor man's right that, for a fair day's work, there should be a fair day's wages; but it was impossible that this or any other legislature should guarantee the existence, at all times, of that desirable state of things,

and to hold out the hope of it would only be to generate disappointment and displeasure.

Lord Howick explained.

Mr E. ELLICE declared himself prepared to vote for the committee. It was impossible you could long continue to force the artisan into the payment of one-third more for the first necessities of life than he paid in any other country.

Mr BORTHWICK explained his views; and

Mr BRIGHT argued the point of "special burthens," the right of agricultural capital to a protection which was not accorded to manufacturing capital; and traced rising prosperity to abundant harvests, which ought to be taken advantage of in order to abolish the corn law, and thus provide for the next set of bad harvests that will ensue.

Colonel SIBTHORP taunted Mr Bright as being a "friend" to his own interest.

Mr VILLIERS rose to reply. He said that there was nothing for him to reply to, since nobody had dared to controvert his arguments. Sir R. Peel had just made a speech with which the agriculturists were much pleased; but he had made the same sort of speech for them in 1839, and had thrown them overboard afterwards, because the state of the seasons and the distress of the people had made it indispensable to give some relief to the country. The same thing would happen again.

The House divided—

For Mr Villiers's motion.....	124
Against it	328

Majority against it 204

Thursday, June 27th.

SUGAR DUTIES BILL.

On the motion for the third reading of the bill, another discussion arose on the question of slave labour, and the right of the colonies to protection.

Mr HAWES and Mr P. M. STEWART repeated the assertion that the sugar and coffee of Java are produced by slave labour: Mr Stewart alluded to Siam as a country where the system of slavery was particularly reprehensible.

Mr GLADSTONE quoted authorities to prove that the agricultural labourers of Java are free to quit their employers' service, and that the proportion of slaves to the rest of the population is but one in three hundred: as to Siam, the government had not come to a determination, therefore they had not included it in this bill.

Mr MANGLES protested against the bill, so prejudicial to the East India sugar growers. The East Indies had not been put on an equality with the West Indies in the importation of sugar till 1837; and now that the cultivation of sugar there was greatly extending, and a large amount of capital had been invested in it, this measure came to crush their exertions. The East Indies could not cope with Java and Manilla without a higher differential duty.

Lord STANLEY taunted Mr Mangles, as one of the advocates of free trade, with wanting more protection for the article of sugar, in which he was interested. The East Indies had been peculiarly favoured by great plenty of labour; yet an advocate for free trade was not satisfied with a protection of 10s., and wanted more monopoly. With respect to the supply of labour to the West Indies, the government had persevered, in opposition to the distinct disapproval of Lord Auckland, in encouraging the emigration of Hill Coolies from the East Indies to the West, since the experiment had partially succeeded.

Mr WARBURTON and Mr BRIGHT spoke against the maintenance of differential duties. Lord SANDON and Mr BORTHWICK supported the interests of the West India planters. The latter, also, re-opened the question of inconsistency during the late divisions on the sugar duties, and defended his own votes; the first vote was against the proposition of ministers, the second against the proposition of Mr Miles, for he disapproved of both. Sir HOWARD DOUGLAS justified his votes on the same ground.

Lord JOHN RUSSELL alluded again to the subject of voting. He drew this distinction between rescinding the vote of the House of Commons on the sugar duties and on the malt tax—that the first division on the malt tax took place without previous notice. He defended the late government from an imputation, incidentally made by Lord Stanley, that they had thwarted the introduction of free labour into the West Indies. The order in council favouring the immigration of Hill Coolies was made in 1838, with the intention of continuing it till 1840; but the opposition the plan of Lord Glenelg met with in parliament induced the government to withdraw the order. The same plan was embodied in a bill introduced by the government in 1840; but again it was defeated.

Sir ROBERT PEEL defended the conduct of the government in prevailing on the House to rescind its vote on this question. He would maintain that there was no difference between the circumstances of the sugar-duties vote and the vote on the malt tax; that there had been no inconsistency in those who had voted against both proposals, nor any degradation of the character of the House. Had the government considered merely the safest course to adopt for themselves, they would have proposed the continuance of the existing duties; that was the advice tendered to the government as the solution of the difficulty. But, considering it advisable, in consequence of the increased demand for sugar, to admit the competition of free-grown foreign produce, they had adhered to their original proposition.

The bill was read a third time and passed.

BANK CHARTER BILL.

On the motion for going into committee on this bill, Sir ROBERT PEEL stated, in reply to a question from Mr Wodehouse, that when parliament should have affirmed the principles respecting the currency

of England contained in this measure, then the government would apply themselves, after friendly communication with the parties interested in the banking establishments of Scotland and Ireland, to frame and bring forward measures for the regulation of the currency of those kingdoms, similar to the measure now before the House, and which upon the whole had met with such general concurrence.

Mr RAIKES CURRIE approved of the bill, and complimented Sir Robert Peel on his general monetary arrangements since 1819. He expressed his dissent from the memorial of London bankers.

The bill having gone into committee, an amendment was proposed in the fifth clause, to the effect that, if any banker should cease to issue his own notes, her Majesty in council might authorise the bank to issue, on securities, additional notes to make up the deficiency. The committee divided, rejecting the amendment by 83 to 38.

A desultory conversation took place, in which many members expressed their opinions, and asked for explanations. In reply to a question from Mr Muntz, Sir ROBERT PEEL made this statement:—

Assuming the circulation of the country banks to be £9,000,000, and that of the bank of England £21,000,000, and that the country circulation of £9,000,000 was suddenly withdrawn, the case would stand thus:—They permitted the bank of England to issue £14,000,000 of the £21,000,000 upon securities, and assumed that an issue upon bullion of one-third, or £7,000,000, would insure the whole convertibility of the £21,000,000. Supposing, then, the £9,000,000 to be voluntarily withdrawn by the country banks and supplied by the bank of England, they admitted at once that £7,000,000 would not be sufficient to support the convertibility of £30,000,000, and would apply the same principle to the additional £9,000,000 which they had applied to the £21,000,000—namely, that £3,000,000 be issued upon bullion, and £6,000,000 upon securities. If the estimate of the total circulation of notes throughout the country should be £30,000,000, then there must be a stock of £10,000,000 of bullion, in order to support that circulation, upon the same principle that a stock of £7,000,000 was assumed to be sufficient to support a circulation of £21,000,000.

In the course of the conversation, Mr W. THOMPSON said the bill might be considered a warning to country bankers, that at the end of eleven years, during which it was to continue, there would be only one bank of issue. Mr TURNER hoped, if that were the intention of government, they would avow it. Sir R. PEEL "would give no opinion on what parliament might do in ten years."

The CHAIRMAN reported progress.

Friday, June 28th.

DISSENTERS' CHAPELS BILL.

The order of the day having been read, Mr COLQUHOUN moved, as an amendment, that the bill be read a third time that day six months. The bill was intended to do away with litigation, but it would give rise to a vast amount of it, particularly in Ireland. The bill was also generally objectionable to the country, and he trusted it would not be permitted to pass into a law. Sir R. INGLIS seconded the amendment.

Lord ELIOT defended the bill, as being calculated to put an end to litigation, and to prevent the infliction of a grievous wrong upon the non-subscribing presbyterians.

Sir THOMAS WILDE also declared himself a convert. Although at first he had been inclined to object to it, he had, after diligent consideration, arrived at the conviction that it was a bill to prevent confiscation and to prevent the intentions of the founders from being defeated. Lady Hewley's case had decided nothing; it had only shown more clearly the necessity of applying to religious endowments the principle of limitation which pervaded the law generally. After some observations from Mr SHAW in opposition to the bill, the House divided—for the third reading, 201; against it, 81; majority for the bill, 120. It was then passed.

The Bank Charter bill went through committee, without much opposition; and all the clauses were agreed to. In the course of the discussion, Sir R. PEEL expressed regret at the extension of branch banks; but he did not see how it could be checked by legislation. An attempt was made by Mr BARNARD to introduce a clause sanctioning the issue of notes under five pounds; but the proposal was withdrawn.

Monday, July 1st.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

Sir ROBERT PEEL stated the measures which the government propose to carry forward during the present session, and those which are to be abandoned. The more important of those which are to be pressed (after the Bank Charter bill, and one yet to be introduced, as a corollary to it, for the regulation of future, not existing, joint stock banks), are the Poor Law Amendment bill, the Railways Regulation bill, Savings' Banks bill, Presbyterian Marriages bill, and a variety of others, to which no material opposition is anticipated. With respect to the County Courts bill, the government will not make an announcement, until the House of Lords come to a decision on the principle which is to be adopted on the subject of imprisonment for debt. Amongst those bills which are to be dropped, are the Irish Registration and Franchise bill, with its companion, the Municipal Corporations bill, and the Ecclesiastical Courts bill, the announcement of the postponement of which was marked by significant cheering. The committee which was appointed to inquire into the subject of the jurisdiction of the House with respect to contested elections, have reported, suggesting certain alterations to be made in the law; and a bill will be introduced to give effect to their recommendation.

IRISH REGISTRATION BILL.

The second reading of the Irish Registration bill having been moved,

Mr T. DUNCOMBE protested against the bad precedent of pressing, through the stage of a second reading, a measure which it was avowedly intended to carry no further. It was a waste of the time of the House, and an additional insult to Ireland. The measure was one which ought not to have been brought on when the member for Cork was unable to attend. He would move that the House should proceed to the other orders of the day.

Sir R. PEEL said, that the day originally fixed for the second reading of the Irish Registration bill was in April, when Mr O'Connell could have attended.

Mr V. SMITH saw no use in reading the bill a second time, when it was avowedly to be abandoned afterwards. He advised all his own friends to abstain altogether from saying anything in this debate.

Lord ELIOT observed, that the course might be very convenient, but it was not very straightforward. The Irish people had been told at public meetings, and in the press, that this bill was an insult to Ireland, and the government now brought it on, challenging those who had so violently denounced the bill to state openly their grounds of objection.

Mr M. J. O'CONNELL advised that, rather than waste the time of the House, the government should call a meeting of the Irish members at the Irish office, where the objections would be willingly communicated.

After a few words from Mr V. STUART,

Mr SHELL expressed his regret at the long and frequent postponements of this measure.

Mr SHAW recommended that the discussion should not take place, which was sure to occasion a good deal of warmth, without any useful purpose.

Lord PALMERSTON thought there was no use in discussing the principles of a bill which was not to be carried further. If it was intended to discuss details amicably, and profit by information, that intention was not likely to be very effectually fulfilled by an angry debate on the second reading. He would, therefore, recommend it to his friends to suppress their speeches.

Several other members having briefly spoken,

Sir R. PEEL said the ministers had had no opportunity of answering the objections already made. If he had now proposed of his own accord to abandon the bill, he would have been charged with an "insult to Ireland." But if the Irish members in general wished that the discussion of the subject should not now take place, he certainly would not press, against their feeling, the second reading of a bill which was not intended, at all events, to be carried further.

Mr M. O'FERRALL, under all the circumstances, would be most unwilling that this discussion should be proceeded with.

Mr LEFROY, and some other Irish members on the ministerial side, took a similar view. Upon this,

Sir R. PEEL, on the explicit understanding that he did but follow the desire of the House, and that he was not to be charged with an "insult to Ireland," consented to relinquish the discussion.

THE UNLAWFUL OATHS (IRELAND) BILL.

On the proposal to go into committee on this bill, which is proposed to be renewed for another year,

Mr MORE O'FERRALL raised a discussion on a clause of the bill which makes the possession of copies of illegal documents penal, unless the individual can prove that he was ignorant of their nature and purport. As the power had been abused for improper purposes, he moved, as an amendment, the omission of the words conferring it.

Several members addressed the committee, and Sir JAMES GRAHAM gave the history of the measure. It originated with the late government, its object being the suppression of unlawful societies, which, he believed, still existed in Ireland. The power was an extreme one, and could only be justified by extreme circumstances: but it was necessary to render the bill effective; and as the measure was only to be renewed for one year (having been originally passed for five years) there was less occasion for that constitutional jealousy which he admitted would otherwise be rightly directed against it.

Mr MORE O'FERRALL saw no necessity for the renewal of the bill at all; and opposed its further consideration, by moving that the chairman should report progress.

Lord ELIOT and Sir JAMES GRAHAM protested against this. It had been admitted that there were unlawful societies in Ireland, and the government were responsible for its tranquillity, which the opposition were free from.

Colonel RAWDON repelled this taunt; and after observations from other members, there was a call for a division, the ministerial benches being thinly attended, while the opposition presented a fair muster. Sir ROBERT PEEL, however, rose, and addressed the committee, anxiously watching the door, in order to see if aid were at hand, a number of members pouring in as he was expressing a hope that the House would "pause" before it rejected the bill altogether.

On a division, the numbers were 58 to 40 against the amendment. The bill then went through committee, and was ordered to be reported.

MISCELLANEOUS.

POST OFFICE.—Mr T. Duncombe gave notice, on Wednesday, that he should on Tuesday next move for a select committee to inquire into "the Secret office" department of the Post office, the duties of the persons engaged therein, and the authority under which the functions of the office are discharged. A large number of petitions on the subject have been presented by Mr Duncombe and other members.

ENCLOSURE OF COMMONS.—A select committee has been appointed, on the motion of Lord Worsley,

to inquire into the expediency of facilitating the enclosure and improvement of commons, the exchange of lands, and the division of intermixed lands; and into the best means of providing for the same.

TURNPIKES IN WALES.—Sir James Graham brought in a bill, on Tuesday, for consolidating the turnpike-trusts in South Wales. He explained, that by the provisions of the measure commissioners would be appointed who would visit each separate turnpike trust throughout the six counties of South Wales; and, having investigated each debt, taking evidence of the same, an award would be made by them, founded on the marketable value of the trust, and the amount tendered to the owner or creditor. If the creditors do not object, the matter would be settled; but if they did, then notice would be served upon them by the commissioners, and the question would be arbitrated upon; power being given by the bill to make such arbitration binding on both parties. When the commissioners should have visited in this manner all the trusts throughout South Wales, and should have ascertained the gross amount of debt owing upon the aggregate turnpike trusts, they were to make a report to the Exchequer Loan office, and to procure an advance of the sum necessary to liquidate these debts; this advance being secured as a first charge upon the tolls themselves, in the form of an annuity for thirty years, a residuary charge being created upon the county rates. When the debt should have been thus liquidated, all the existing acts and trusts were to be extinguished, and the collection of the tolls would thenceforward rest with the country. A board of management was to be created, consisting partly of certain *ex officio* members, partly of a number of the magistrates, and partly of the rate-payers. The bill was read a first time.

PRIVATE BILLS.—On Thursday the following motion, on the proposition of Mr Gladstone, was passed:—"That the rule prevailing with regard to discussions in the house should extend to committees, and that members having a direct pecuniary interest in the question before the committee, should not vote upon it in committee."

PAUPERS' CERTIFICATES.—It was stated by Sir James Graham, on Thursday, in reply to a question from Lord John Russell, that the practice of denying relief to the poor, except on the production of a certificate that the farmers in the neighbourhood had no work to give them, had existed in some few parishes in Suffolk and Norfolk; that he was grieved such an illegal system should have arisen; and that the poor-law commissioners had given directions to discontinue the practice.

THE ZOLL VEREIN.—On Friday, in answer to Dr Bowring, it was stated by Sir Robert Peel, that though not officially informed, he believed that the rumour was correct of the intention of the Zoll Verein to place a higher duty on British iron. He had hopes it would not be persevered in.

A NEW WRIT was ordered for the city of Limerick, in the room of Sir David Roche, who has accepted the Chiltern Hundreds.

PETITIONS FROM IRELAND.—On Monday night Mr Maurice O'Connell presented thirty-nine petitions from different parts of Ireland, praying for a repeal of the union; twenty-two petitions from different parts of Ireland, against the renewal of the Bank charter; and thirty-nine petitions from various parts of Ireland, signed by 49,984 individuals, against the County Registration bill, and commonly called Lord Eliot's bill [hear, hear]. He had already presented 370 petitions on the same subject.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Thursday, June 28th.

POOR LAWS IN IRELAND.

The practical working of the poor laws in Ireland was made the subject of a short discussion. The Marquis of CLANRICARDE moved for copies of any declarations in ejectments or notices to quit that have been served upon the Irish poor-law commissioners, or upon the guardians of any union. The object in bringing forward the subject was to elicit from the government their opinion respecting the steps it would be necessary to take in consequence of the report of Mr Pennethorne relative to the state of the workhouses.

From that report it appeared there had been the greatest mismanagement in the erection of the buildings. No provision for drainage had been made until one hundred workhouses were contracted for, and many nearly completed; there had been no provision for the supply of water; and the buildings were in many cases defective. The estimate of Mr Nicholls had been found to be far below the real cost of bringing the poor law into operation: instead of £800,000, one million was now said to be the least possible sum. The Marquis mentioned many cases to show the difficulty and almost the impossibility of collecting the rates, though the police and the military had been employed for the purpose. In Ballinasloe union, several hundred men had been engaged in collecting £14; in another union in Galway, troops had been marched forty miles to collect the rate; and the result of their labours did not half pay the cost of collection.

The Duke of WELLINGTON did not object to the production of the papers. He admitted that the report of Mr Pennethorne showed that the complaints made against the execution of the works, had been to a great extent justified. A committee had been appointed in the Commons to consider the whole subject; on their report a bill would be founded; and when the bill came to their lordships, the matter would be regularly considered; and if the Marquis of Clanricarde then thought further inquiry was necessary, the Duke would not refuse. He had supported the measure for introducing poor laws into Ireland, because he thought it was required there; and he still hoped it might succeed.

The motion was agreed to, after a few remarks from the Earl of MOUNTCASHEL, who said that the poor law was unpopular with all classes in Ireland.

Friday, June 29th.

POST-OFFICE ESPIONAGE.

The practice of opening letters at the post office was again brought before the House by Lord RADNOR, who presented a petition from M. Mazzini, praying for an inquiry into the circumstances under which, for the last four months, letters had been regularly detained and examined, broken seals counterfeited, and the post marks obliterated to avoid detection. Lord Radnor asked ministers to state whether or not a warrant had been issued for opening Mr Mazzini's letters.

The LORD CHANCELLOR said he knew nothing about the matter. The Duke of WELLINGTON complained of the want of notice; and asked the petitioner's name. When informed it was Mazzini, "Mazzini—Mazzini—oh!" said the Duke; and their lordships laughed.

In the discussion that ensued, Lord CAMPBELL reiterated his former opinion, that there should be a specific warrant for opening each letter; in which opinion the Marquis of CLANRICARDE expressed concurrence. The LORD CHANCELLOR and Lord BROUGHAM dissented from such a construction of the law. The LORD CHANCELLOR read the oath taken at the Post office, by which the party binds himself not to open or detain "any letter or letters" except by express warrant. The report says:—

The Lord Chancellor said that, having now read the enacting clause, he found that the terms were precisely in accordance with the terms of the oath he had just cited—namely, that no person in the Post office should delay, or detain, or open any letter or letters, packet or packets, "except by warrant under the hand and seal of the secretary of state."

LORD CAMPBELL: GO ON.

The LORD CHANCELLOR: "For every such opening" [hear, hear].

Lord BROUGHAM said that, with respect to the re-sealing of the letters, and sending them forward, he could not concur in thinking that it was the greatest evil. If they were opened and read, and their contents copied, and they were afterwards sent to their destination, it was so much the better, for the real grievance was not sending the letters on, but opening them. Nothing, he said, would make his "noble friend" (Lord Campbell), more dear to him than his being kind enough to answer, how the Home Secretary was to know beforehand what letters Mr Mazzini was to receive, and which particular one contained treasonable matter.

LORD CAMPBELL conceived the particular letter might be indicated; and he instanced the conduct of Cromwell, who, having heard that a letter had been written by his King to the Queen, and that it was contained in the saddle of the messenger's horse, watched the messenger, ripped open the saddle, and there found the letter, in which it was intimated that instead of a blue riband he was to get a halter. His condemnation of one part of Sir James Graham's conduct was generally cheered:—

When the act recognised the authority of the Secretary of State to issue his warrant, authorising the opening of a letter in which it was suspected treasonable correspondence was contained, he doubted whether it was contemplated by the act of parliament that letters should be opened secretly, and afterwards re-sealed and sent to the person to whom they were addressed, as if no such examination of them had taken place—as if they had never been expected. He doubted whether such a system of espionage as that had ever been contemplated by the framers of the act [loud cheers, and cries of "Hear, hear"].

LORD DENMAN hoped, that when the subject was brought practically before their lordships, it would be considered not as a matter of antiquarian lore, but as a practical question—whether such a power was suited to the present time. "He quite agreed that a warrant for all the letters of a particular individual would amount to a warrant for every letter, but not for 'each opening.' That argument went too far, because, according to it, the Secretary of State must, upon a single act, require the post-master-general to send him the letters of a particular individual during his entire tenure of office." He felt satisfied that the Duke of Wellington himself would bring in a measure for repealing or modifying the statute, were it not that such a course would appear to be deserting his colleague. The power was an assumed power—a relic of former bad times; and it ought not to be permitted to exist.

Lord RADNOR expressed surprise that, amongst the six ministers present, not one should know anything about a matter which had given rise to so much discussion in the country. He gave notice, that on Thursday next, he should move for the appointment of a secret committee to investigate the subject.

The Duke of WELLINGTON wished all further debate to be deferred until the subject came regularly before the House; and was authorised only to say that Sir J. Graham had done no more than every other secretary, from the days of Queen Anne downward.

The conversation here dropped.

The Earl of WINCHELSEA, in order to keep the price of corn steady, and to put down the agitation on the corn laws, suggested the establishment of national granaries throughout the country. Lord MONTEAGLE considered the suggestion, and the speech by which it was accompanied, to be the strongest arguments he had ever heard against the sliding scale. The Duke of RICHMOND thought that the best mode of keeping the price of corn steady was to maintain the existing law unaltered. The matter dropped, after some further remarks from the Earl of Winchester.

Monday, July 1st.

In reply to Lord Monteagle, the Duke of WELLINGTON said it was the intention of government to renew the Party Processions act (Ireland), which expires this year.

Lord KINNAIRD gave notice, that on Thursday next he should ask the government whether there was, either in the Post office or in any other department under government, a secret office for carrying into effect the warrants of the Home Secretary with respect to the opening of letters; and whether any communication was made by the secretary for Foreign Affairs to the Home Secretary for the purpose of having Mr Mazzini's letters opened?

SEES OF ST ASAPH AND BANGOR.

Earl POWIS moved the third reading of this bill for repealing the union of the sees of St Asaph and Bangor.

After some observations from Lord VIVIAN, and the Bishop of BANGOR,

The Duke of WELLINGTON intimated that the government were not disposed to grant the assent of the crown to the measure; and he therefore hoped, that if it were sent down to the lower House, it would be so amended as not to interfere with the machinery of the act by which the sees are united.

Lord MONTEAGLE, seeing that the bill would interfere with that provision for the working clergy contemplated by the ecclesiastical commission, moved that it be read a third time that day six months.

The LORD CHANCELLOR, doubting if he could put the question on a bill affecting the rights of the Crown, suggested the appointment of a committee to search for precedents.

Lord CANTERBURY moved the adjournment of the debate, in order that the suggestion of the Lord Chancellor might be adopted.

After considerable discussion this was agreed to, and a committee to search for precedents was appointed.

SHIPWRECK.—By Lloyd's returns, it appears that the annual loss to this country by shipwreck is 610 ships, £25,000,000 of property, and 1,500 lives.

THE HONEST WAY OF DOING BUSINESS.—The sedate Turk is a man of few words, and seldom utters more than is strictly necessary. He sets his goods before you, names their price, and leaves you to do as you please about buying. You need not think of offering him a lower bidding, he will not bate a para, and the only reply he will make, will be to take back the article in question and return it to its place.—*Chapman and Hall's "Library of Travel."*

Postscript.

Wednesday, July 3rd.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

POST OFFICE ESPIONAGE.

Mr Duncombe's proposal for a committee of inquiry into those very unceremonious practices at the "secret or inner office" of the establishment in St Martin's le Grand, which have of late become so unenviably notorious, was last night so far successful as to extort from the government a concession that a committee of some sort was really necessary and unavoidable, though the ministry differed, it seems, with the hon. member as to what sort of a committee it would be most expedient to appoint. Mr Duncombe wished for a committee to inquire into and state the truth. Sir James wished for a committee whose appointment might be of such a nature as to cover the defect which he would virtually sustain in the very act of conceding it. When Mr Duncombe, therefore, asked generally for inquiry, the government, unable to refuse it, only ventured to stipulate that the proceedings of the committee should be secret. This is certainly, in our humble opinion, neither more nor less than a defeat, and, considering the tone hitherto assumed by the home secretary in this affair, a sufficiently humiliating one.—*Times.*

* Mr T. DUNCOMBE commenced by saying, that the anxiety of government for a full discussion had not evinced itself in any great effort to make a house; for there had been none of the government present at four o'clock, and the Speaker himself had made the fortieth member. He deprecated any attempt to treat this as a question of confidence, and scouted the remedy of a legal action. He desired, and would move for, a full inquiry into the proceedings of what was called the secret or inner department of the post office. When the mails arrived, some individuals from that inner department came in, and took away this or that bag, which, after an hour or two, was delivered to the sorters. They, of course, knew not whose letters had been opened in the inner office, but, he believed, that in that office the letters of the foreign ministers themselves were opened. This practice was not followed in other countries; so that, though called un-English, it seemed to be confined to England. It had been exercised not only for Sardinia, in Mazzini's case; but for various other foreign states, in the cases of their respective subjects. Commissioners had been sent from London to examine letters at the country post offices, and there it was probable that everybody's letters were opened. Perhaps the letter of some unhappy foreigner, opened at the London office, is full of gratitude to those friends who have assisted him to escape hither; the letter is given to his government, and his friends are betrayed to the authorities of the state where they reside. You compel every man, under a penalty, to send his letters through the post office, and then you take advantage of that compulsion to open them. If you do open letters, at all events, you ought not to commit forgeries of seals and papers, in order to conceal the act.

Sir J. GRAHAM declared that the government had been sincerely desirous to have a house on that

evening, in order that this subject might be fully sifted. He had, on the former debate, spoken the strict truth as to the facts; and in referring the complainants to the law, he thought he had stated what was not improper; although, as it appeared not to be satisfactory, he would not repeat it. The case had now assumed the aspect of a grave charge against the government. The subject was in itself an important one; but its importance had certainly been much exaggerated by the tone and the assumptions of Mr T. Duncombe. That hon. member had, however, observed, that after so much had been said by government, it would be necessary for them to say more; and in the present state of the public mind, most sensitive, and honourably so, he agreed that the time had come when this was necessary. The attempts which had been made to bear him down by a concentration of personal odium, he would have disregarded, if he had thought it for the public benefit to remain silent; but the recent excitement had rendered it indispensable that there should be the fullest inquiry into the conduct of himself, of his colleagues, and of their predecessors. The result of that inquiry would be, that his own conduct had been in strict conformity, not only with the statute law, but with established usage. It was his intention, however, to move an amendment upon the present motion. There must be an inquiry, and by a committee of that house; but he thought, and here he followed precedent, that the public interest required such a committee to be a secret one; and it ought to meet instantly. The point of chief importance would be the composition of that committee. He would propose that it should consist of nine members, whom he named. This list excluded all the ministers, as being the persons accused; and it excluded Mr Duncombe himself, without any disrespect, but as being, in a peculiar manner, the accuser upon this occasion.

A long discussion followed, in which members on both sides of the House took part. Lord JOHN RUSSELL and other whigs thought that the inquiry should be secret. Mr ROXBURGH, Mr WATKIN, and others, thought this would be an extraordinary mode of satisfying public curiosity. The public at large were as competent to form an opinion as the nine members who were to constitute the committee. The committee very probably might finish their report with a recommendation that the power should in future be exercised with forbearance; and then the practice would go on for twenty, or thirty, or forty years more, till there should come another such explosion as the present.

Sir R. PEEL said that, without the guarantee of secrecy, they would not obtain from individuals that full disclosure which was so necessary to the present purpose.

Mr WILLIAMS objected to the nine members named, as being all of them adherents of one or other of the two great political parties. He thought Mr Duncombe and Mr Hume ought to be upon the committee.

Eventually Mr James moved the addition of Mr Duncombe's name; but this was rejected by 128 to 52. Mr Hume's name was also proposed, but subsequently withdrawn.

The committee will therefore consist of the following nine members:—Lord Sandon, Mr W. Patten, Mr T. Baring, Sir W. Heathcote, Sir C. Lemon, Mr Warburton, Mr Strutt, the O'Connor Don, and Mr Ord.

On the constitution of the committee the *Times* observes:—

"Lawyers, it seems, are to be excluded. The ministers, being the accused parties, are not to be on the committee themselves, but are only to be represented there. The accuser, being also a party, is also of course excluded, but without a representative. Now this certainly strikes us to be a very suspicious, and at the same time a very plausible method of constructing a committee for a purpose such as the present. The plaintiff is shut out; the defendants are let in. The tribunal professes to consist, not of a third and independent party to mediate between two others, but of the equally-balanced and avowed partisans of the two parties themselves. * * * And what is the positive construction of the committee? It is named by the party to be arraigned before it—by the accused himself. It includes in it, as might be expected, no one who is likely to give trouble to the Home Secretary."

In the House of Lords, last night, the leading business was the third reading of the Sugar Duties bill, on which a debate of considerable length arose. The Earl of Dalhousie stated the grounds on which the government have brought in this measure, which were assailed by Lord Monteagle, as being unstatesmanlike and anti-commercial; defended by Lord Brougham on the anti-slavery principles; while Earl St Vincent argued that a sufficient supply of free labour to the West Indies would have prevented the necessity for the measure. The Earl of Radnor considered it a step in the right direction, but thought it a hardship to prevent sugar refining in the West Indies. Lord Ashburton supported it, and the Marquis of Lansdowne commented on the uncertainty and insecurity on which it proceeded. The Earl of Dalhousie replied, and the bill was then read a third time and passed.

GREAT ANTI-CHURCH-RATE MEETING AT GREENWICH.—A public meeting was convened at the Lecture hall of the Greenwich Institution, on Monday evening, to consider the conduct of the church authorities in the late seizures for church rates, and to form a protective society, to be called "The Borough of Greenwich Anti-church-rate Association;" Admiral Dundas, M.P., in the chair. The hall was full in every part; and on the platform were Colonel P. Thompson; Colonel Feed, of Lewisham; David Wire, Esq.; and Messrs Squire, Reynolds, and George Rose (of Rotherhithe), dissenting ministers. The chairman having expressed his opposition to church rates, Colonel Thompson moved the first resolution—"That this meeting, regarding religious belief as a matter between God and individual man, with which no other individual

has a right to interfere, strongly repudiates all compulsory exactions in support of particular creeds, as inconsistent alike with reason, justice, and scripture; that church rates, partaking of such exactions, being under any circumstances objectionable, and particularly so in the parish of Greenwich, where the church is in the receipt of funds which, year by year, are sufficient for all the purposes for which such rates are legally designed."

Mr George Rose seconded the resolution, which was carried by acclamation. Mr J. O. Squire moved the second resolution: viz.—

"That the recent proceedings against the property of several inhabitants of this parish, for the recovery of a rate in itself unnecessary, and in its character, being retrospective, strictly illegal, furnishes a necessity for the formation of a protective society, to be designated 'The Borough of Greenwich Anti-church-rate Association,' and that such society be now formed."

This and other resolutions having been carried, and a committee appointed to carry them into effect, the thanks of the meeting were voted to the gallant chairman, and the meeting, which lasted until eleven o'clock, separated.

THE CONVICT DALMAS.—Yesterday afternoon, between the hours of three and four, Dr Sutherland, accompanied by Dr Monro, proceeded to Horse-monger lane gaol, by the authority of the Right Hon. the Home Secretary, in order to examine into the state of mind of the convict Dalmas, the friends of the convict having repeatedly urged upon the attention of Sir James Graham that, during the last two years, Dalmas has been subject to fits of mental aberration, brought on by incessant and severe study, in conjunction with his chemical experiments. The convict appeared quite composed, and answered every question put to him in the most calm and lucid manner. The result of the examination is, of course, not known.

This morning's papers contain no intelligence from Ireland.

Mr D'Israeli, in a letter to the *Times* of this morning, denies having furnished, directly or indirectly, the report of the late meeting at the Carlton, which appeared in that paper.

A deputation of directors from most of the railways waited upon Sir Robert Peel, for the purpose of laying before the right honourable baronet their views on the subject of the ministerial measure respecting the railways of the kingdom. They requested that the measure might be postponed until next session, to which Sir R. Peel declined acceding.

"Not to be Grahamed" is a phrase already universally in use. The hint given in our journal, on Friday last, to have fancy wafers with this motto, has been taken with promptness worthy of praise by Mr Sounes, of Rupert street, Haymarket, who has sent us numerous specimens of such wafers, which are remarkably neat and pleasant to use, and which doubtless will find a ready sale.—*Chronicle.*

ITALY.—A letter from Ancona, of the 17th June, published in the *Augsburg Gazette*, states that the news has been received from Corfu that the Italian refugees in that island, to the number of forty, among whom were the two brothers Bandiera (the sons of the Austrian Admiral), had embarked, on the night of the 13th, on board of a vessel supposed to be either Neapolitan or Roman, with the intention of landing on some point of the coast of Italy. It was supposed they had gone to Calabria. Two of the foreign consuls at Corfu had dispatched vessels in quest of them, and to make them prisoners; but, by the last accounts, without success.

FRANCE.—An article asserting the rights of the princes, the King's sons, to a dotation from the country, appeared in Friday's *Moniteur*, the official organ of government, and had excited very painful sensations in Paris among even the best friends of the Orleans dynasty, from the head of which it was generally understood to have emanated. The *Journal des Debats* and the *Presse* insert it without any preface or comment, whilst all the opposition papers stigmatise it in most indignant terms. And well they may, if the following from the *National* be true. The King's property, to judge from its revenue, cannot be under 100,000,000*fr.* The King receives, moreover, 12,000,000*fr.* per annum in specie, out of the budget; and 10,000,000*fr.* more out of the Crown property, making a civil list of 22,000,000*fr.* annually. Madame Adelaide, whose devotedness is extolled with so much warmth, possesses a fortune of about 90,000,000*fr.* The Duke d'Aumale inherited 80,000,000*fr.* left by the Duke de Bourbon. The fortune of that family amounts in income to 270,000,000*fr.*, and yet we are told of its poverty.

SPAIN.—Accounts from Barcelona announce that the moderate party in the cabinet, represented by M. Mon and M. Pidal, has triumphed. The cortes will be convoked immediately, and will take into consideration the government measures, by which its constitution is proposed to be changed.

TURKEY.—Our Constantinople correspondent writes, on the 17th ult., that the Sultan returned to that capital in the morning of the 10th. The news from Albania continued to be favourable. The rebels, discouraged by their late defeats, and the capture of the principal chiefs and promoters of the insurrection, had dispersed in every direction, and the Ottoman army was then in complete possession of the country.—*Times.*

CORN MARKET. MARK LANE. THIS DAY.

	Wheat	Barley	Oats	Beans	Pears	Flour.
English ..	1780	60	3410			
Scotch....						
Irish			1600			
Foreign ..	10120	4810	8946			

No alteration in prices.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

- "Thomas Dick." We have given insertion to two letters on the subject, and are sorry that our space will not admit of another.
- "Alban Abbey." We hope our compliance with his request will appease his anger.
- "J. F." We are quite unable to furnish him with the information he needs.
- "A Young Pastor." The same answer will apply in his case.
- "J. R." Received.
- "W. Johnson." There is no disputing tastes. We certainly do not aspire to "the classical style" of the *Morning Chronicle*.
- "E. Service." If sympathy were universal, it would show itself in some more substantial way.
- "John Blood." Our copy of the paper referred to was destroyed before we received his letter.

RECEIVED FOR PIGGOTT.

From Friends to Religious Freedom at Tooting 1 10 0

Terms for advertising in the *Nonconformist*.

- For 7 lines...5s. 0d. | For 10 lines...6s. 0d.
For every additional line...4d.
For a half column £1 5s. | For a column...£2 0s.
•• Advertisements from the country must be accompanied by a post-office order, or reference for payment in London.

Orders for the *Nonconformist* are received at the office, and by all booksellers and news-vendors. The terms of subscription, if paid in advance, are £1 6s. per annum. All communications for the Editor should be addressed to the office, No. 4, Crane court, Fleet street.

The Nonconformist.

LONDON: WEDNESDAY, JULY 3, 1844.

SUMMARY.

IRISH affairs are once again prominently before the public. Earl de Grey has resigned the lord-lieutenancy, and will return to England on the 15th of the present month. Lord Heytesbury is appointed his successor. Rumour is rife, and the correspondent of the *Times* gives countenance to it, that further steps are to be taken for the suppression of the Repeal Association. There may have been some truth in it; but, if such was the intention of ministers, they have to all appearance changed their minds. They will content themselves a little longer with superseding repeal magistrates and those who sympathise with Mr O'Connell in his imprisonment; but, from the answer of Sir Robert Peel to Mr Bright on Monday, we gather that no application is to be made to parliament this session for further coercive powers, and, with those which now exist, a tilt at the Repeal Association would be ineffectual. Meanwhile the "captivity," as it is termed, has produced repeal rent for its first month to the amount of £14,000.

The overland mail from India has arrived, bringing with it intelligence of internal conflict in the Punjab, which Lord Ellenborough evidently watches with keen interest, anxious to detect some necessity for British interference, and ultimately for British conquest and occupation. We should not be surprised if, prior to the arrival of Sir Henry Hardinge at Bombay, another "splendid victory" should have been achieved, and another rich province annexed to our dominions in the east. According to Sir Robert Peel, such things constitute the hard necessity of civilisation. The fault is in our stars. We are plunderers by fate, and we must fulfil our unwelcome destiny. Christian sentiments these, to come from the first minister of a country which prides itself upon caring for the spiritual interests of the people! In other respects the eastern news is devoid of special interest.

Tuesday and Wednesday evenings were devoted by the House of Commons to the discussion of Mr Villiers' motion upon the subject of the corn laws. As we have spoken at large upon the subject elsewhere, it will not be necessary to detain our readers with any passing comment in this place. We observe, however, that several of the free-trade papers are taking comfort from the division list; and are boasting that, inasmuch as the minority falls short by one only of what it was last year, whereas the majority is smaller by fifty-three votes, considerable progress has been made. All such calculations we take to be purely beside the real question. The present House of Commons is just what it ever has been—an assembly of monopolists. Its determination to uphold the protective system is well known; and the division list, we imagine, is affected, not by the smallest change of opinion on the subject at issue, but by the greater sense of security which landlords have, that their interests are safe in the hands of ministers, and by the absence of the leading whigs, who have their own party purposes to answer. It appears to us worse than childish, thus to bolster up the cause of free-trade with delusive vaunts of progress. Such tricks do more to injure than many sound arguments can avail to advance it.

The Sugar Duties bill has at length been disposed of. That's a comfort; for the interminable discussions upon it became absolutely disgusting. It passed its third reading without a division. The Dissenters' Chapels bill has also passed. The Bank Charter bill has gone through committee;

all parties seeming agreed in viewing it as an able measure. Our objections to it remain unchanged, notwithstanding the arguments of our correspondent "Mercator," given in another column. Whilst on this subject, it may be as well for us to explain that in our last week's article, when speaking of the importance of circulation representing the whole property of the country, we ought to have qualified it by inserting the term "exchangeable." It was in our mind to have done so; but, by some oversight, the word was omitted. We only hope that the anticipations of "Mercator," respecting the future supply of gold, may be realised. But we stand in doubt.

On Monday night Sir Robert Peel announced to the House the several measures which he intended to abandon for the session, amongst which were included, the Irish Municipal Corporations bill, the Irish Registration of Voters bill, and the Ecclesiastical Courts bill, together with several other minor measures; and also those which he intended to pass through, namely, the Poor Law Amendment bill, the Bank Charter bill, the Railway bill, and some others of no public interest. The *Times* makes the following remarks on the occasion:—

Thus, then, what with the ministerial bills which are abandoned, and those which, though not expressly ministerial in their origin, were yet understood to be brought forward under ministerial patronage, and which without ministerial patronage must fall to the ground, we seem to be recurring to the policy commenced and encouraged by the whigs—of introducing a vast number of important propositions at the opening of parliament, only for the purpose of exciting curiosity and insuring disappointment. Everybody remembers the coolness with which hon. members used to be told in answer to their inquiries, that "Her Majesty's ministers did not intend to proceed any further at present with the bill alluded to," about the end of every June during the whig ministry; but few people, we apprehend, expected to see Sir R. Peel reduced to the extremities and procrastinations of Lord J. Russell.

The dirty practices of the Home Secretary at the Post office appear to excite almost as much attention in the upper as in the lower house. The principal portion of Tuesday and Friday evenings were spent by their lordships in discussing the question involved in these proceedings. Sir James Graham was more feebly defended even than he was in the House of Commons. The Duke of Wellington showed a firm front, but could only say that his colleague had done no more than every other secretary from the days of Queen Anne downwards. Lord Brougham eagerly defended both the authority lodged with government, and the manner in which the power had been exercised. To these two peers alone was left the task of attempting to repel or turn aside the crushing arguments advanced on the other side, by Lords Denman, Campbell, Radnor, and the Marquis of Clanricarde. The Lord Chief Justice gave it as his deliberate opinion, that, by the law, an express warrant for the opening of each letter was clearly required, and that the power of inquisition, vested in the government, ought to be abolished. It was found, on a reference to the act giving the authority, that the clause expressly required a separate warrant "for each opening." The indefatigable Earl of Radnor is again to bring the subject forward to-morrow evening, in terms similar to Mr Duncombe's motion. The more the subject is discussed, the clearer it is that Sir James Graham has exceeded the law. Every day brings forward some fresh instance, proving the extent to which this disgusting system of espionage has been resorted to. In the *Morning Chronicle* of yesterday we find a communication from a gentleman in Hamburg, in which he states that his letters are systematically opened, perchance to please the King of Hanover. Our readers will doubtless look with interest to the results of last night's debate in the House of Commons, an outline of which will probably appear in our postscript.

The question of the poor laws in Ireland has been the subject of discussion with their lordships. The whole system would appear to be an expensive failure—one which even the Duke of Wellington's chivalry can scarcely stand up to defend. The bill for repealing the union of the sees of Bangor and St Asaph, which was marching so triumphantly through the house in opposition to the fiat of government, has been suddenly stopped in its career—the consent of the Crown having been withheld. A committee consequently has been appointed to search for precedents to ascertain whether, under such circumstances, the bill can proceed another step—the Duke of Wellington quietly reminding the bishops that the interests of the establishment were much more intimately connected with the due maintenance of the prerogatives of the Crown, than with the separate preservation of any episcopal sees whatever. Herein the duke is right. But bishops have ever been prone to be blind.

FORMS OF OPPRESSION.

"I mean oppression—low wages is not the only oppression."—*Suffolk Labourer, Morning Chronicle, June 28th, 1844.*

No! in good sooth! Never did rustic simplicity deliver itself of a truer, fuller sentence. Let it cleave its way into the hearts of our legislators!

It has force enough in it to penetrate any bosom not already pre-occupied with the trumpety maxims of the landlord policy. One would think it might tell upon any mind less stuffed with self-complacent dogmatism than that of Lord Rendlesham or of Colonel Rushbrooke.

Oppression! Yes! its forms are various; and, on every hand, our miserable peasantry have been made familiar with its hideous features. Low wages are bad enough—but they constitute but a single item in the agricultural labourer's list of grievances. His is not simply a bread and cheese question—it is a question involving all the rights and dignities of manhood. The pride of power and the lust of avarice have so encroached upon his domain—a domain to which his nature gives him a valid title of inheritance—as to have driven him out into that region where he must take his station with the brute. What law, framed in St Stephen's, recognises in him the material elements of all human capabilities? What magistrate ever stays to reflect that the hardworking peasant is possessed of a soul? and that beneath that rough exterior which toil and exposure have knotted into the strangest shapes of uncouthness, there lies, in a state of semi-torpor, the yearning ambition of a man? What board of guardians ever deigned to look upon that inner world of hopes and sympathies, of emotions and affections, which is as real in the child of poverty as in the heirs of affluence? What master stoops to consider that the poor wretch whom he sends afield to till his soil, and whom he gripes with the hard fist of penury, has feelings which may be lacerated, or aspirations above the beasts which he follows at the plough? The poor—the outcast poor—who cares for them, or hesitates, when it may suit his own purpose, to add another drop to their cup of bitterness? Verily! Incendiarism is far from being the greatest marvel which the history of this country has hitherto turned up upon the surface.

Low wages! No! this is not all. To be neglected as a thing of nought—to have harsh words from insolence as a matter of course—to be denied all the rights of citizenship—to be curtailed in all the privileges of freedom—to be taken advantage of at every turn of life—to be kept in ignorance in order that he may remain servile—to be dealt with as presumptuous for daring to taste indulgences which those above him enjoy without scruple—if viciously disposed, to be watched by the police and brow-beaten by the magistrate—if religiously inclined, to be threatened by the squire's lady and lectured by the clergyman—in health to be disregarded—in sickness to be taught to regard himself as a pauper—to be worried by game laws—to be hedged about by trespass acts—and, having exhausted his vital powers in the service of others, to be shut up in old age in a union workhouse—this is the common lot of the agricultural labourer in this country. All classes conspire to keep him down. Why, even feminine charity sees no impropriety in so extending her hand to pining want or wasting sickness as to point at the same time to the miseries of dependence. The very good which is done to these poor creatures is done with an air of lordliness which deprives it of its worth. They are never left to choose. Everything comes to them in the shape of a command. To themselves they must appear made exclusively for others. From birth to death they breathe the atmosphere of oppression.

At length they are beginning to estimate their own condition, and, with bitterness of feeling, deliberately to gauge the depth of their own degradation. And to what conclusion do they come? Read it in the sentence we have prefixed to this article! They are right; and, unless our landed gentry agree to turn over a new leaf, it will be felt that awful consequences are coiled up in this correct knowledge by the peasantry of their own state. "Low wages is not the only oppression," and there will be other manifestations of revenge besides incendiary fires.

THE ANTI-CORN-LAW DEBATE.

THE debate this year on the question of the corn laws, if it may be taken as a sure index of the popular mind in reference to commercial freedom, would be sadly discouraging. It flagged through two nights with evident wearisomeness of step. It had precisely the tone of a discussion which those who engage in it know to be for professional objects rather than real. We are not surprised at this. Without suspecting the free traders of any insincerity, we never anticipated that their spirit would rise with time, or that the hopes which once excited them would survive many sessions—and a debate, which hope of some sort does not inspire, is the flattest of all sublimity things. The leading members of the League were sorely out of heart. None of them were in feather. All were wanting, unless the reports belie them, in that coherency and calmness which bespeak a consciousness that every stroke will tell. Their speeches reminded us of the random shots which vanquished men sometimes fire whilst retreating. Their enemies crowded over them. Sir Robert Peel ventured upon *badinage*—a thing he never does when conflict is serious. The only

earnest and good speech, strange to say, was that of a whig lord—for, assuredly, in our judgment, Lord Howick outshone the whole cluster of free traders.

How does this happen? Whence comes it that the question of commercial liberty has lost its interest? But two years since, it filled every heart—if friendly, with expectation—if hostile, with misgiving. Its doctrines are no less true now than they were then—no less important—no less extensively rooted in the convictions of our countrymen. What, then, can account for the altered tone of its advocates, and why is a corn-law debate in 1844 so thoroughly bereft of the life which animated it in 1842? The matter is worth inquiry, and, dispassionately investigated, may lead us to some valuable conclusions.

The remark may, we presume, be hazarded without fear of challenge from any whose judgment is not warped by selfish interests, that public opinion on this subject has not gone back. If we are not inclined to set much store by the weekly performances at Covent Garden, we cannot, nevertheless, arrive, by an open road, at the conclusion that the efforts of the League to diffuse a knowledge of its principles, have been altogether without effect. Those principles are allowed on all hands to be abstractedly true. The opponents of them have as yet put forth no serious strength of argument, sound or unsound, in refutation of them. In the field of intellectual warfare, the free traders have kept undisputed possession of the field. Nor have they been idle. They have sedulously steered clear of all political sentiments, the utterance of which might have raised the dust of prejudice about their one chosen topic of agitation. They have had the zealous and almost incessant co-operation of the public press. They have had at command vast sums of money. They have kept able lecturers afield, and Messrs Cobden and Bright have laboured with indefatigable energy to enlighten their fellow-countrymen. Tracts have inundated every district. Elections have been contested on anti-corn-law principles. All the ordinary means of convincing a population have been plied with more than usual determination. Now we cannot, in reason, suspect that all this labour has been in vain. We believe the very reverse of this. We think that, could public opinion be accurately gauged, it would appear, beyond a doubt, that it has, through the instrumentality of the League, made rapid progress in favour of free trade.

Whilst, however, the League has been diffusing knowledge, their antagonists have been husbanding and strengthening their political power. The landlords, wise in their generation, allowed their antagonists to push forward without check, whilst they were busily constructing an impenetrable barrier in their own rear, upon which they meant to retreat, and from behind which they could laugh to scorn the most formidable assailants. By all the various modes which put constituencies within their grasp—by playing upon the weaknesses of the middle classes, and pandering to their childish taste for aristocracy—by blowing upon every democratic doctrine as disloyal, revolutionary, and irreligious—by flattering tradesmen here, and putting the screw on them there—by bringing into full play the agency of the clergy, to identify the maintenance of their own interests with those of Christianity—by increasing their borough property, and feeding poor freemen into servility—by imposing foul covenants upon tenant farmers, and getting them within the meshes of their power—they have gained a command of the representation which securely defies defeat. The League has attempted to scale the walls of their fortress—with what success is but too well known. First, the present parliament was to be carried *coup-de-main*. That being found hopeless in the first attempt, it was to be battered in during the next session at an expense of £50,000. Another failure served to turn attention to the constituencies. They were to be flooded with light. Well! they were so at the cost of £100,000. And now it is discovered that the constituencies are unmanageable for any popular purpose—and that, with far more knowledge, the nation, as opposed to the aristocracy, have far less power.

With us it has long been a matter of regret—regret which we have not been backward to express, that the League has, from the first, miscalculated its capabilities of success. To our minds they have appeared as men laying the foundations of a noble structure within high-water mark, heedless of all friendly warning that the tide was rising. We should be sorry to be understood as affirming that all their costly labour has been thrown away; but the result of recent elections, and the division on last week's debate, may suffice to convince the most unwilling that the aristocracy are not to be overthrown on the field of economical reform. It is far too narrow a question for the spirit of the age. It never will extensively enlist the sympathies of the unrepresented millions. It will not inspire servile electors with that enthusiasm which the prospect of freeing themselves, once for all, from the galling fetters of landlord oppression, might perchance excite. Did the settlement of the question

depend upon the enlightenment of the population, free trade would by this time have been on the eve of triumph. But it does not. It depends upon a constituency which the lapse of every year is placing more completely in the hands of lordly proprietors. The prospect, therefore, instead of becoming more cheering as we advance, becomes gloomier at every step. The mischief must be assailed at its root. All classes ought to be manfully informed that, under the existing system of representation, free trade must ever remain but a delusive dream. The country ought to be undeceived on this point. Then, if the middle classes prefer retaining the present system, with its known disadvantages, they will have none but themselves to blame. It is quite possible that, for a year or two, such might be the case; but the penalties with which they would be visited would be so grievous that, ere long, they would rouse themselves for conflict—and, joining force with the masses, would bear down upon the aristocracy with a strength which would wrest from their possession the seat and stronghold of class legislation.

THE MAN OF LETTERS.

SIR James Graham has been recently, and by accident, exhibited to the world under a novel phase of character. To the other striking qualities which adorn his mind, must now be added an ardent thirst for useful knowledge. This laudable desire of the Home Secretary, like jealousy, growing by what it feeds on, has become the master passion of his soul. Its intense energy defies counteraction. In pursuit of gratification, it breaks down all barriers—honour, self-respect, candour, morality, religion. It peers into every corner of the social system; it violates all the sanctities of social life. It employs agencies to cater for it, which less earnest devotees abhor as sacrilegious. It despatches hither and thither policemen, dressed in plain clothes, to worm themselves into the secrets of those whom tyranny displeases. It bribes reporters of the daily press to fish for evidence against troublesome opponents. It resorts to all those means of acquiring information against which few men in this country have deemed it necessary to be on their guard, because few men have conceived it possible for any of English birth and education to stoop to the unparalleled baseness of employing them. To cap all—to prove that in "the lowest depth" of meanness there is "a lower depth," into which it hesitates not to venture—to demonstrate to a wondering world, that there exists not one bond of virtue which it cannot burst with ease—it secludes itself in the secret chamber of the Post office; and, calling the expedients of science to its aid, crawls into the innermost recesses of private correspondence, foraging and smelling about with the instinct of a weasel, in search of that knowledge which a home secretary may hereafter turn to account.

If there be any one propensity of human nature, the indulgence of which provokes loathing—that inexpressible sense of disgust which can, with difficulty, refrain from spitting upon the object which excites it, or putting his head under a pump, or dipping him in a horse-pond, and which more than any other emotion impels a man to forget what is due to humanity, even in its lowest, its most reptile form of degradation—it is the prurient curiosity which peeps over your shoulder when engaged in writing a letter to a friend. We say nothing of breaking open the correspondence of another with the express view of putting oneself in possession of its contents, for we verily believe this to be done only by thieves and home secretaries. Certainly, amongst the few remains of dignity left to fallenman, serving to indicate, like the odour of an empty cask, what it once was, not the least conspicuous and valuable is the horror with which most men shrink from violating the sanctity of epistolary communications. Individuals in whose bosom familiarity with meanness has not trodden out the last spark of good-feeling, will avoid with scrupulous anxiety glancing even at open letters addressed to another, which chance may have thrown in their way. It is true that here and there, in remote villages where curiosity wanders in search of food to as little purpose as Hottentots in a desert, post mistresses will sometimes peer between the folds of a letter, and hunt for gossip in forbidden places—but then they do so as they would commit any other crime—the blush is upon their cheek whilst they perpetrate the act—and the deed, when committed, is never recalled to recollection without bringing in its train a burning sense of shame. It is reserved for Sir James Graham to open letters by system—and to justify it when detected. He, "good easy man," is conscious of no fault. That delicacy which, in most men, would smell an offence in this or the other act of social perfidy, he knows nothing of—so true is it, that that is one man's meat which is another man's poison. When the Cossacks were in England, they climbed the lamp posts to get at train oil, which they relished amazingly. The moral world has its train oil too—and Sir James is a veritable Cossack. He has a taste for what would turn the stomachs of most men. There is nothing

too rancid for him—no! not even the opening of letters.

In some districts of Scotland, the inhabitants are troubled with a certain cutaneous eruption, thought to originate in uncleanness of habit, to allay the irritation produced by which, they turn to account every post in the neighbourhood. Sir James Graham has the political type of this disorder, and he, too, avails himself of the post to relieve the itching sensation which torments him. But there is this peculiarity in his case—he cannot be persuaded that it is a disease—he thinks it natural to all home secretaries. He is not ashamed to let the world see him scratch himself—and, apparently, never troubles himself with the thought that his complaint is catching, and that subordinates of every grade in the post-office department are in danger of becoming the victims of the same loathsome malady. He wonders that he is shunned—that people with cleanly ideas of honour shrink from being fingered by him. He cannot see, for the life of him, why he may not show his face in reputable company, and declare before an assembly of gentlemen, "These hands are clean." He stoutly maintains his right to be dirty to the full measure of his own sense of propriety—and where-as it has come to light that he has no such sense, he yet expects that society will hug him to its bosom.

It is some comfort to know that the honourable baronet is mistaken. Seldom has any political crime been brought to light, which has elicited a more unanimous shout of execration out of doors, than the newly-discovered practice of Sir James Graham. The fact has startled all parties into an expression of horror. If for the safety of the state in perilous times, the sacredness of privacy is to be profaned, let it be done after the same fashion as, in similar times, the personal liberty of the subject is invaded—openly, avowedly, and *pro re nata*. Let us have a kind of post-office suspension of *habeas corpus*! Let all men be forewarned! But, in the name of all that's honest, let this odious privilege of the Home Secretary be abolished! It is part and parcel of the spy system. It belongs to the age of confession by torture—and we hope that it will be driven out of the political world, together with Sir James Graham, its patron, with one universal hiss of indignation.

SKETCHES BY A FRIEND.

WHEN Henry Vincent, as he occasionally does, draws a picture of our houses of legislature, or when we, in our own rude way, attempt to give, in some few touches, an outline of their general character, the whole respectable world, insofar as it takes notice of such things, denounces the production as a vile caricature. That we have been substantially correct, we can now produce unimpeachable testimony. The *Times* of yesterday happens to contain two portraits—one of the House of Lords, another of the Commons. Of the upper branch of the legislature the conservative scribe speaks thus:—

"It really would be kind, and perhaps also prudent in the end, to allow the Lords something to do, or at least an appearance of agency. No people will long bear a body which does nothing. Life is linked with activity, and that which does nothing soon is not. When the people discover at last that the upper House does not move, we shall shortly see them jumping upon its carcass, and considering how they may best cut it to pieces, and stow it away out of sight. The Duke of course considers, that so long as he lives the state is safe enough. He may be right. But he will not last for ever, and it would be some consolation for his loss to find, that he had left a respectable and efficient House of Lords to supply his place. At present they are little better than the dozen or two scene-shifters transformed into a senate or a council as the drama may require, and, by the help of red cloth and catskin, looking very deliberative and awful. Would the Duke, just to satisfy the ancient nobles of England that they are what they pretend to be, just to sustain the pretence for their titles, and just to keep their hands in, allow them some pet piece of legislation—a mere toy bill—on some innocuous subject? They don't aspire to diurnal, to hebdomadal, to monthly activity. *Nulla dies sine linea*, they confess to be a cut above them. But a whole year *sine linea*—a maiden session is hardly respectable."

We must confess to the feebleness of all our delineations as compared with this. The sketch given us of the House of Commons is not so well filled up, but is an admirable likeness. Look at it:—

"That period of the session has now arrived which is usually as fatal to all schemes of legislation as the approach of Christmas is to the existence of geese and turkeys. Parliament has entered on the season when bills are burked, like pheasants at a *battue*, by scores. Having devoted the first five months of its sitting to talk, it will devote its last six weeks to business; one part of this business will consist in passing some three or four dozen acts, public and private, local and general; the other in consigning about the same number to the bottomless gulf of distant considerations and visionary sessions."

And now, having examined these studios from the hand of a master, who will accuse us of exaggeration? The warm friend of our glorious constitution in church and state—the great conservative organ—cannot be suspected of setting down aught in malice, and yet, unquestionably, no lines of ours have ever exceeded them in severity.

General News.

FOREIGN.

INDIA.

News from Bombay to the 20th, and from Calcutta to the 11th of May, from Macao to the 10th, and Hong Kong to the 8th of April, was received by extraordinary express, in anticipation of the overland mail, on Monday.

The principal intelligence brought by the Indian mail of the 20th of May relates to the state of the Punjab, which appears now to be more distracted than ever. A bloody fight is stated to have taken place, on the 7th of May, between Heera Singh, the present prime minister, and the party of the sons of Runjeet Singh, who are opposed to him, led on by Ittur Singh, a chief of considerable influence. The latter attacked Heera Singh, and a bloody conflict took place, in which Heera was said to have been wounded. Ittur Singh was considered by some of the partisans of Heera as being supported by the British, and they therefore have threatened to invade the territories of the latter, to revenge themselves on those who had countenanced the proceedings of Ittur Singh.

The threatened movement of the notorious Akbar Khan on Peshawur had not taken place. The position of his father, Dhost Mahomed, was by no means satisfactory; his age, his infirmities, and the complicated state of the affairs of Cabul, would, it was thought, induce him to resign his sovereignty into the hands of Akbar.

The news from Scinde extend to the 16th of May. Sir Charles Napier was busy in making preparations for the meeting of the Beloochee chiefs, which was to take place on the 24th of May, when it is said that upwards of 17,000 of them would attend, each having an unarmed attendant. Thirty thousand men assembled to deliberate would present an odd appearance. It was supposed that Sir Charles had some important measures to propose to their attention.

The Governor-general was once more on the point of going from Calcutta to the north-western provinces. An army of 80,000 men had been ordered to proceed to the Punjab, and it was thought Lord Ellenborough and Sir C. Napier would undertake the conquest of the Punjab, the former as a diplomatist and a politician, and the latter as a general.

Sir Henry Hardinge was expected at Alexandria on the 21st ult.

The news from China is destitute of interest.

FRANCE.

Early on Sunday morning, the 23rd ult., a number of police agents entered the hotel of the Duc de Montmorency, in Rue de la Planche, accompanied by a commissary of police, during the absence of the duke. The Commissary called in a locksmith, who opened the doors and drawers, and enabled him to make a most minute search through the entire house, which lasted upwards of eight hours. The commissary seized all the papers of the duke, together with busts and engravings representing members of the elder branch of the Bourbon family, of which two cartloads were conveyed to the prefecture of police. A similar search was made in the hotel of the Duc d'Escars on Monday; and M. Lepinois, secretary of the Charitable Work of St Louis, has been arrested. The *Commerce* mentions a report of the seizure of some papers connected with the visit of the Duc de Bordeaux to London, and even that of the Emperor Nicholas. The *Moniteur* mentions, in explanation of the cause of the domiciliary visits, that an attempt had been made by two men to seduce some soldiers from their duty, at Issy, near Paris. On being arrested, they made disclosures which implicated the Duc de Montmorency and the Duc d'Escars.

The Chamber of Deputies continues to be occupied with railway bills, as if it were intended to cover the whole surface of France with railways at once, to make up for previous delay. The bill for establishing a railway communication by way of Boulogne appears to have been abandoned; and the question now is, by which route the line to Calais is to be traced.

Marshal Soult has addressed an order of the day to the army, on the occasion of an attempt made by the legitimists to seduce from their duty the sappers of the corps of engineers stationed at Issy. The Minister of War reminded the officers, sub-officers, and soldiers, of the oath of allegiance they had taken to the King and their *drapeau*.

The *Constitutionnel* states that it is not only by France that Morocco is threatened, but that Sweden and Denmark are likewise fitting out a naval expedition against the Arabian empire. It is composed of four frigates, a corvette, and a steam ship of two hundred horse power, armed as a war cruiser. Its object is to compel the Emperor of Morocco to renounce the tribute paid him annually by Sweden and Denmark.

It was confidently stated in Paris on Saturday, that letters had been received by the French government from Marshal Bugeaud, written subsequently to the affair of the 15th, in which Marshal Bugeaud intimated his intention of invading the Morocco territory forthwith, and that he expected to be in Ouehda with his whole army on the 20th. It was not doubted that the Marshal had put his threat into execution, in which case the Morocco invasion may be considered a *fait accompli*, and the next accounts from Marshal Bugeaud will possibly be from Fez. Several of the Paris papers of Friday state, that even after the engagement of the 15th, the Emperor of Morocco disavowed the acts of the tribes who had ranged themselves under Abd-el-Kader's banner. A French army has now entered Morocco,

and the task of extending the French empire in Africa to the Atlantic has commenced.

SPAIN.

The proposal of Don Carlos to renounce his claims to the throne of Spain on behalf of his son, provided the latter marry the Queen of Spain, appears to have excited a strong sensation in Madrid. Nearly all the papers concur in censuring such an arrangement, as fatal to the interests of Spain. This was supposed to be the subject of ministerial deliberation at Barcelona, where the court and ministry are now stopping. The capital is full of troops, brought there in anticipation of the *coup d'état* to be struck at Barcelona. On the 23rd great bodies of cavalry paraded the streets, in order to make a demonstration of the force which, in case of necessity, could be brought against the people.

A letter from Barcelona states that General Narvaez and Mr Bulwer are closely engaged in negotiations for a treaty of commerce between England and Spain, and that the French ambassador supports the British.

HAYTI.

The accounts received by the last West India mail are revolting: revolution has been followed by general anarchy. The successor of Boyer has been superseded by Guerrier, an old general of Christophe. A general named Acau, indignant at this having taken place without his consent, issued a counter proclamation. He was in possession of Cayes. His followers are represented to be about five hundred ragged wretches, badly armed, but perfectly under his control. He had flogged many of the prisoners in the Fort Boyer unmercifully, and had others shot; with his own hand he is represented to have shot six. His natural ferocity is much increased by an immoderate use of rum. He has been seen frequently so drunk as to knock down his aides-de-camp, tear their swords from them, and they only escaped with their lives by running away. The squadrons of England and France are actively employed in protecting the interests of their respective countries.

AMERICA.

By the Tarolunta we have advices from New York to the 5th inst. The President had transmitted to the senate some further correspondence connected with the Annexation treaty. The letters and accompanying message show that a stipulation on the part of the United States government, pledging her support against Mexico, was required by, and given to, Texas, as a *sine quâ non*, before the commencement of negotiations. This measure had encountered warm and decided opposition in South Carolina.

President Tyler's proposal for the annexation of Texas was, as expected, rejected in the Senate, the nays being thirty-five, the votes for it but sixteen. To explain their decision, and inform the public of their motives, the papers furnished by the President were ordered to be printed and distributed, to the number of 20,000 copies. From these documents it appears that the Texian statesmen are sharp fellows, and refused to sign the treaty of annexation till they had obtained from President Tyler, not only a promise to defend Texas in case of an expedition from Mexico, but the actual march of troops and dispatch of fleets. No sooner was the result announced, than Mr Benton gave notice of his intention to bring in a new bill for the annexation of Texas, in which there is a provision to open a negotiation with Mexico. The following are its principal features, though in a very condensed form:—

1. To open negotiations with Mexico and Texas, for the annexation of the latter to the United States.
2. To adjust boundaries, which are to be along the desert prairie west of the Nueces, &c., to 42 deg. north.
3. The vote of the people or legislature of Texas to be taken on annexation.
4. If annexed, to be divided into (at first) a state and a territory.
5. Slavery to be prohibited for ever in the north and north-west parts of the 'territory,' and the whole of the annexed country to be divided as equally as may be, between slaveholding and non-slaveholding states.
6. Consent of Mexico to be obtained, or to be dispensed with when Congress shall deem such consent unnecessary.
7. Other details to be adjusted by treaty."

On the 11th, in the Senate the resolutions of Mr McDuffie providing for the annexation of Texas were laid upon the table by a vote of twenty-seven to nineteen.

The bill making the territory of Iowa a state has passed the House of Representatives.

The correspondent of the *Chronicle* has the following:—

A company of 1,500 persons has just left Independence in Oregon. The "Native American" party continues to be in immense strength in the large cities, and very little is now said of the Repeal Associations, the vote of Irish citizens, &c. For example, on Friday night last, a public meeting of "Native Americans," was held in front of Independence hall, consisting of from 15,000 to 20,000 persons; the largest meeting ever held in Philadelphia. Indeed it was found necessary to divide it into four meetings, with regular officers and speakers to each. Strong resolutions were carried, asking an extension of the period of probation to become an American citizen, to twenty-one years' residence; and nearly all the speakers denounced the practice of putting foreigners, especially Irish Catholics, into government, state, or municipal offices.

Canada papers are rather barren. The opposition have disclosed and published the extract of a letter written by Colonel Gowan, grand master of the Orangemen, in July last, which is adduced as a proof that Sir C. Metcalfe was in an understanding with the orange party as far back as July last to turn out his liberal cabinet.

FOREIGN MISCELLANY.

A STRANGE LADY.—Paris, or rather the environs of Paris, contains, at this moment, a stranger who excites the curiosity of all her neighbours. We are assured that this lady, an Englishwoman by birth, and called Lady Stanhope, lives in the most impenetrable mystery, surrounded by a great number of female servants, dressed with the greatest propriety. When she goes out, she is always accompanied by five or six of these women, dressed exactly like herself, their faces covered with a very long and very thick veil, in such a way that no one can distinguish who is the mistress. A thousand versions, a thousand conjectures, are current on the subject. The most accredited is, that this singular lady is no other than the famous Lady Stanhope, whose romantic history has furnished materials for the stories of so many travelers. According to this version, Lady Stanhope did not die in Syria three years ago, as was reported. She only pretended to be dead, and it is she who at this moment is traveling here. This *bizarrie* will be worthy of the celebrated hermit of Lebanon.—*Revue de Paris*.

A SLAVE WHIPPED TO DEATH.—A man by the name of Lamb (!) was recently tried at Charleston, South Carolina, for whipping a negro to death. Though it was proved that he inflicted 350 lashes, well laid on, in 24 hours, and that the slave died soon after, the jury found him "Not guilty!" And such are the tender mercies of slavery—the institution of the patriarchs!—*Anti-slavery Reporter*.

Letters from the principalities on the Danube, of the 12th, say that endeavours are making on the part of Russia, to unite Servia, Wallachia, Moldavia, with the adjacent Turkish provinces, into a kingdom, under the supremacy of Turkey, and the protection of Russia. The report adds that the Duke of Leuchtenberg is destined to be the sovereign of this new kingdom, whereas, according to other accounts, Russia would leave the choice entirely to the Porte, and the great European powers.—*Hamburg paper*.

A letter from Berlin, of the 15th instant, states that there was every probability that the commercial treaty concluded between Prussia and the United States of America would not be ratified.

INDIAN ELOQUENCE.—The following eloquent remarks of Cilly M'Intosh, an intelligent and influential Creek Indian, in support of a law introduced by him, in relation to the introduction of ardent spirits into the Creek nation, are copied from the last number of the *Arkansas Intelligencer*, a very ably conducted paper, published at Van Buren:—

Gentlemen of the committee—You are not in full council; and the special business at present before you is to enact a suitable law, interdicting the introduction of whiskey into our nation. Whiskey is a bad thing—it is an evil spirit—we know that it is evil—and that it has been the bane of our country, and it has caused the ruin of our people.

The strength of our people is like the oak in the forest; the limbs, the leaves, and the fruit is green and rich; its branches are heavy and fine, and under its shade the wild animals rest, and the birds sit upon its boughs. So with our young men; their limbs are strong, they are swift, and their hearts are very brave and wise; they are a shelter and protection to their wives, and their children sit in their arms.

But the lightning of the storm, when it opens a bright path through the black cloud, can strike the oak, and lay its beauty in the dust—bring low its strength and grandeur.

So the lightning from the evil fire-water strikes my people; then they reel, stagger, and fall; they stab their friends, and are no longer a protection to their lodges; they cannot stand in the might of manhood, but they wallow in the mud like a beast.

Warriors, who of you is not brave—who of you is not wise—who of you is not swift—who of you would fear to strike a foe? Your arm is long, you may reach your enemy—your cunning is great, and can hide you from him, but the evil spirit is strong, and eats the heart. Who can stand, and the fire-water burning his veins? Can the warrior touch him and not fear?—can he take him into his bosom and not fall? The warrior has love for his home, his people, and his honour—the evil spirit has none, and seeks to destroy the warrior. Who will suffer it—who will be tamed by the hot liquor till he is like a kicked dog? Who will not lift his arm and say, This enemy—this fire-water shall begone, and shall destroy no more? Warriors, your strength, your wisdom, your cunning says, touch no whiskey; husbands, fathers, and brothers, your love, your happiness, your homes, cry against the evil spirit, and your young children are fearful—who shall teach them bravery, wisdom, and love, if the father be dead in liquor?

Brothers, our brave and great brethren, the Cherokees and Choctaws, have passed laws prohibiting the traffic in fire-water. They are wise—their chiefs are cunning, and they scent the enemy. This law is doing them good—their lodge hearths and their fields are green—they sit down in peace, and rise refreshed.

Let us follow their example. If we make a good law on this subject, and carry it into effect, our people will also smile—our children will laugh, our women be strong, and our nation will be happy.

Brothers, I do not wish you to keep your hearts closed. I wish you to open it wide that good may come in, and drive out the evil; I wish you to speak your minds freely like men—like warriors—like counsellors; my heart is white; I love my people and my country—whiskey is their enemy—it does much harm, and makes enemies of friends; therefore I hate it. With it my people are bad and weak; without it they are good and strong; without it they would be good warriors, good husbands, good fathers, and good citizens.

CUBA.—The letters from Cuba paint the proceedings of the government there in the most frightful and tyrannical colours. Englishmen are in gaol as well as Americans; some, it is said, for having expressed opinions about Cuba while they were in the United States. Hundreds of negroes have suffered, and many are said to have died under the torture of the lash. Money is mulcted from the accused by the officers, who make a trade of threatening planters and others with accusations. One account says

that some English men-of-war are on their way to Cuba to protect British subjects.

SWITZERLAND.—The Helvetic diet was opened on the 25th ult. by the president of the directory, M. Siegwart Muller, who delivered on the occasion a speech exclusively devoted to the recent occurrences in the Valais. He particularly applied himself to justify the course pursued by the government throughout the affair, and stigmatised, in energetic terms, the attempt of the partisans of Young Switzerland. After this speech, which was favourably received by some, and disapproved by others, the Assembly rejected, by a large majority, the proposition of the member for Basle country, that the deputies of Valais be excluded from the extraordinary diet.

THE MORMONITES.—The increase of Mormons during the past year amounts to 600 or 800 from foreign countries, and 300 or 400 from the United States (principally from Pennsylvania, Connecticut, and Massachusetts). Fifty or sixty missionaries arrived at St Louis on the 29th ult., on their way to preach Mormonism in different parts of the country. —*American Paper.*

SUPPLY OF GUANO.—A letter from Ichaboe, dated the 9th of April, quoted in the *Zuid Afrikaan*, states that there were thirty-seven vessels at that island taking in cargoes of guano, and that some of the natives of the coast had at last made their appearance. It was thought they might be profitably employed in the new trade. The abundance of guano is alluded to, and now the pits have been worked some time there seems to be less difficulty experienced in procuring the necessary supplies.

COLONEL STODDART AND CAPT. CONOLLY.—Captain Grover has received letters from Dr Wolff, dated from the 12th to the 15th of April, 1844. The first was written at Mero, which now belongs to Bokhara; and the last in the desert, distant only three days' journey from the capital. Dr Wolff says—"I advance confidently towards Bokhara; and if the King does not stop me, in three days I shall be in the capital." The doctor has received great kindness from the Khaleefa Abd Arrahman, who is described as the spiritual guide of the King of Bokhara, and is dignified with the title of Majesty. "He has given me," writes the doctor, "letters to the King of Bokhara, and tells me positively that Stoddart is alive; Conolly not quite certain. No public execution had taken place of either of them. I am his guest: he has just now entered my room (this was at Mero), and showed me a letter he has written to the King of Bokhara, stating that it is of the highest importance that Stoddart and Conolly should be given up to me, and reparation made to England for the insult, and not to keep me longer than three days. This letter is to be despatched by an express Turcoman, and will reach Bokhara before me. His Majesty also sends with me one of his own relations, to introduce me properly to the King of Bokhara. A letter from Dr Wolff, addressed to the missionary and philanthropic societies throughout Europe, and dated April 15, requests that, should he fall by the hands of Bokhara, their powers may be exerted, not to revenge his death, but for the purpose of ransoming 200,000 Persian slaves, and several Italians, as Giovanni the watchmaker, &c., who have been brought there from Khorossan and Persia; and many thousands of those Persians have been sold for the most immoral, unmentionable use, to Bokhara and its neighbourhood. They are not black slaves, but white slaves."

A motion for the abolition of capital punishment was made on the 21st in the states of Baden, but was rejected by a majority of 38 to 19.

DOMESTIC.

METROPOLITAN.

GREAT MEETING IN COVENT GARDEN.—A great meeting of the freeholders and inhabitants of the city of Westminster took place yesterday, in Covent Garden, "for the purpose of taking into consideration the proceedings of the government for the subjugation of Ireland, and the prosecution of O'Connell and others, for their support of the rights of Irishmen, and to petition parliament for the immediate release of the state prisoners." The meeting was held in pursuance of a requisition presented to the high bailiff of Westminster, which was numerously and respectfully signed. Long before the appointed time (two o'clock), the large area in front of St Paul's, Covent Garden, was crowded to excess, and from 6,000 to 7,000 persons are said to have been present. The high bailiff took the chair. The principal speaker was T. S. Duncombe, Esq., M.P., Colonel Rawdon, M.P., S. Harford, Esq., E. D. Davenport, Esq., and Mr O'Connor, also addressed the meeting. A petition to parliament, and a sympathising address to Mr O'Connell, were unanimously adopted. The meeting passed off without disturbance.

Another meeting, at which about 1,600 persons were present, was held at Saville House, Leicester square, on Monday evening. Mr Feargus O'Connor and Dr Wade were among the speakers.

METROPOLITAN ASSOCIATION.—An association for the improvement of the dwellings of the industrious classes, with a capital of £100,000, in shares of £25 each, is now forming in London, and lists are in circulation for the reception of the names of subscribers for raising that amount. The project is supported by persons of distinction, and when carried into effect, "the labouring man will be enabled to procure a comfortable, cleanly, and healthy habitation at a less expense than is at present paid for very inferior and unhealthy accommodation, arising from want of ventilation, bad drainage, and the crowded state of the apartments."

THE SUSSEX PEERAGE.—A committee of Privileges assembled on Tuesday morning to resume the consideration of this claim, when Augusta d'Este, sister to the claimant, and Lady Virginia Murray, the sister of Lady Augusta Murray, were examined. On Friday the hearing was resumed, and the case of the claimant closed by a speech from Mr Erle, in which he summed up the evidence in his favour.

THE LIBRARY OF THE LATE DUKE OF SUSSEX.—On Monday commenced (at Evans's) the sale of the first part of the extensive and valuable library of the late Duke of Sussex. All the works in this sale, which will last twenty-four days, are classed under the head "Theology." The collection is most extraordinary. There was a remarkably full attendance. Considerable as were the prices given (between £5 and £24) the articles were of minor interest in the estimation of ecclesiastical bookworms, compared with what are to follow.

ELECTION OF SHERIFFS.—Alderman William Hunter (of Coleman street Ward), and Mr Thomas Sydney, tea-dealer of Ludgate hill, have been unanimously elected sheriffs for the ensuing year.

POST-OFFICE ESPIONAGE.—A public meeting to denounce the mean prying conduct of the Home Secretary, was held on Saturday evening, at the Scientific institute, Snow hill; Mr Tuckes in the chair. Resolutions in accordance with the object of the meeting were unanimously adopted, and Sir James Graham was bandied about from speaker to speaker in a most unmerciful manner. Mr Cluer, in seconding one of the resolutions, remarked that he had known Sir James Graham for some years, and a person less competent to manage the great affairs under his control he could not conceive. He happened to be a relation of Sir James Graham, and he spoke, therefore, from experience. Some strange facts relative to the system of espionage had recently come to light. He (Mr Cluer) was in the habit of receiving a vast number of letters, and he could unhesitatingly say that, during the last eighteen months, he had not received ten which had not been previously opened. The *Chronicle* of Monday says:—"We publish, in another part of our paper, a letter from a correspondent at Hamburg, a gentleman of high respectability, who informs us that, to his knowledge, letters from Germany have been opened in the secret department of the post office. We should be curious to know whether a warrant was ever issued to open letters upon the requisition or on behalf of the King of Hanover? Can anything be more horrible than the notion that evidence, gained by our post-office espionage, may be at this moment sending Polish prisoners to Siberia, or Italians to an Austrian dungeon."

THE EXHIBITION AT WESTMINSTER HALL.—The exhibition of works of art at Westminster hall, was opened to the public on Monday. One shilling is charged for admission, but it will doubtless soon be open to the public gratis. On Saturday, the Queen, Prince Albert, and the Commissioners of fine arts, and members of parliament, &c., visited the exhibition. The sculpture forms the chief feature in the exhibition, numbering nearly one hundred subjects, many of them groups consisting of several figures. The names of the artists contributing include, it is believed, all the first talent in the country, among whom may be mentioned James Wyet, Park, Henning, Gibson, Bell, Westmacott, Weekes, Bohnes, Carew, Lough, Bailey, &c. The works, taken collectively, form a magnificent display, and certainly on no former occasion has so large a number of subjects been brought together under circumstances so favourable to their exhibition. The large majority of the works are, of course, original subjects; many of them illustrating points of English history. There are also many portrait statues, and a few models of works already known, which, by the arrangements of the exhibition, were privileged to be admitted if executed within the last five years. The daily journals seem to have different opinions concerning the merits of the exhibition. The *Chronicle* regards it as discreditable to British talent. The *Times* speaks more favourably:—"Amid crudities of all sorts—ignoble conceptions, obvious difficulties in handling the material, adherence to conventionalities, and 'prettyisms'—thus much is ascertained—that a great deal of real talent has been called into action, and that, with respect to the frescoes, the artists have moved with much freedom, in a style which must, of necessity, be new to them. There is every grade, from the rawness of a tyro to the finish of an accomplished painter; but if an average is struck, and due allowances are made, the result is decidedly favourable." On Monday there was a constant succession of visitors, including many of the nobility. Fifteen hundred persons paid for admission at the doors.

CLAIRVOYANCE.—A correspondent of the *Morning Chronicle*, who was present at the exhibition at Dr Elliotson's, reported in our last number, believes the chief part of what he saw to be a deception. For this opinion he gives the following reasons:—

These two feats of reading blindfold, and of holding a man on one's legs, were both tried by myself that evening, in the presence and by the management of three friends. I was bandaged first with three handkerchiefs, exactly as the youth Alexis was, and then a book was placed at the bottom of my nose, and having got it to a proper angle, I read the lines very easily—seeing with my left eye (which in every one has an acute angle of vision). During the experiments of Monday, at Dr Elliotson's, the nose of Alexis, I saw myself, showed an open space, the other being stuffed with cotton; and, upon mentioning my doubts to Dr Elliotson, that gentleman requested the youth to hold back his head, in order that I might examine. This first raised my suspicions, as he pressed up his lip, and contorted his face so as to conceal the gap at the side of the nose, which I again distinctly saw when he resumed his upright position. The experiment on myself was repeated with

cotton; and on being allowed to contour my face as Alexis did, and rub my bandage as he did in his convulsions, I got sufficient opening to see so distinctly as to read, and to show to each of those present, that a person might be carefully bound, to all appearances, and yet see down the side of his nose, and, by practice, he might learn to do as Charles Matthews did in his art, twist his face into shape sufficient to dislodge any bandage to the extent necessary for his purpose. Why, if the experiment [with the watch] was a fair one, did the operators not test the truth, as a gentleman present desired, who wrote a word on a piece of paper, and declared he would believe, if Alexis could read it when held behind his back? To me, the refusal to accede to so simple and natural a request, was a granting of the whole question. If Alexis could decipher a volume placed in the same position, he could surely read a single word, written purposely in a large and intelligible hand on a piece of paper.

A SHIP ON FIRE.—On Thursday morning a fire broke out on board the *Galena*, 280 tons, a New-castle trader, lying off the Tower. She was heavily laden with a cargo of tea and sugar, cotton goods, and tar, and was to have sailed to Newcastle in the course of the day. The chief part of the cargo is consumed—a loss of at least £2,000.

SHOPKEEPERS' SWINDLE.—The report of Worship street police office, which appeared in the papers of Thursday, contained a decision of Mr Bingham's which we cannot but deem harsh and unprovoked by the circumstances of the case. A person of respectable demeanour was brought up charged with having used violent language and created a disturbance on the premises of a haberdasher in Shoreditch. It appeared, on investigation, that he had been struck by the cheapness of some article ticketed in the window at 1s. 11½d., and had entered the shop for the purpose of buying it; that the shopman refused to serve him with it, but in its stead offered another, somewhat similar to it, but far inferior in value, which he of course declined to accept, at the same time protesting against this delusive mode of enticing customers. After this, not wishing to leave the shop without making some purchase, he applied for some handkerchiefs which were ticketed in the window, when the same sort of deception was repeated. Upon this he vented his indignation in strong language, was ordered to leave the shop, and upon stating the cause of his summary ejection to a mob which the *fracas* had collected in front of the shop, was given into custody. Mr Bingham heard the case, told the defendant that he had acted injudiciously, and then—for want of judgment, we presume—bound him over in his own recognisances to keep the peace.

THE MYSTERIOUS POISONING CASE.—The adjourned inquest on Mrs Belaney, the wife of James Cockburn Belaney, late of North Sunderland, who died from the effects of prussic acid, supposed to have been administered by her husband, was resumed on Tuesday. Mrs Stobbs, an aunt of the deceased, stated that Mrs Skelly, her sister, died very suddenly about a year since, while residing with Mr and Mrs Belaney, at North Sunderland, and that her funeral was a hurried one. The inquest was adjourned till Thursday, when the jury returned a verdict of "Wilful murder" against Belaney. On Wednesday he was brought before Mr Broderip, at the Thames police office, and a number of witnesses were examined. The leading features of their evidence were, that, on the eve of the departure of Mr and Mrs Belaney from North Sunderland, they each made a will, bequeathing the whole of the property they possessed to each other, in the event of one surviving the other; that, on the very day his wife died, he wrote a letter to Mr Bell, his clerk, stating that his wife was dangerously ill, and attended by two physicians, although she had not been visited by any medical gentleman; and that on the 9th he wrote another letter to the same person, stating that his wife was dead, but giving no account, or even alluding to the fact, of her having taken poison. The prisoner was remanded till Saturday. On Saturday the prisoner was remanded on a charge of wilful murder until the 7th of August. He will be tried at the Central Criminal court.

DIABOLICAL ATTEMPT.—Mr Kirch, the aeronaut, has had a narrow escape from imminent destruction. Having discharged one of his workmen for misconduct, the scoundrel, in revenge, sprinkled the parachute of the balloon, by which he was to ascend on Sunday last, with vitriolic acid. Mr Kirch, and two other persons who were to go up with him, would in all probability have perished, had not the gas escaped. Searching for the cause of this, he discovered the infernal project. He found out the perpetrator of this diabolical act, and, denouncing him, he has been arrested.

PROVINCIAL.

THE KING OF SAXONY has been making a tour in Derbyshire. Haddon Hall, Bakewell, Chatsworth, Buxton, Castleton, and Matlock, have been visited, and their wonders inspected. On Tuesday he proceeded to Birmingham, and thence to Leamington and Oxford. On Thursday his Majesty visited the different colleges at the latter city, accompanied by the vice-chancellor, to whom he expressed his astonishment at the magnificent buildings, saying he thought it was the finest city in Europe.

REDUCTION OF RENT.—On Saturday last, at the rent audit of T. W. Bramston, Esq., of Skreens, that gentleman most liberally returned to his tenants ten per cent., on account of the deficiency of the last harvest.

PENN.—A few days ago, Mr John Groves, a large landowner in the above parish, sent his tenant farmers their half-yearly receipts, with a request that they might not trouble themselves about sending him the money for the half year, but keep it in their pockets.—*Aylesbury News.*

CHESTERTON.—GENERAL EDUCATION.—On Tuesday evening, June 25th, commodious British school rooms for boys and girls, adjoining the baptist chapel, were opened by a public tea meeting, when, notwithstanding the extreme unfavourableness of the weather, there was a good attendance. Upwards of two hundred persons sat down to tea. After tea, G. E. Forster, Esq., was called to the chair, and addresses on the subject of popular education, in which the principles and system of the British and Foreign School Society were explained and enforced, were delivered by Messrs H. Battiscombe, A.M., Cambridge; E. L. Forster, Stony Stratford; James Acworth, A.M., president and theological tutor of the Baptist college, Bradford; R. Roff, Cambridge; C. Stovel, London, and other gentlemen.

CONGREGATIONAL EDUCATION MOVEMENT.—Between £7,000 and £8,000 have been subscribed during the last fortnight in Leeds, Halifax, Huddersfield, and Bradford, towards the patriotic object of educating the rising generation.

THE LATE HOUR SYSTEM.—Public meetings, "to take into consideration the desirableness of shortening the hours of labour," have been held during the past week at Bath and Devonport. At the meeting in the former city, the mayor presided, and was supported by several of the most influential gentlemen. In both cases, committees, to secure the object of the meetings, were appointed. At the Bath meeting, an additional resolution was adopted, recommending masters to pay their workmen on Friday evenings, instead of Saturday.

THE COLLIERS' STRIKE.—The last return issued from the coal trade office shows that the number of men who had left the union, up to Saturday last, was 651; and that the total number of hewers employed amounted to 3,235, producing about 4,600 chaldrons per day.—*Gateshead Observer.* The Marquis of Londonderry—says the *Newcastle Journal*—has ejected from their abodes those pitmen who refused to resume their work, and who occupied houses at Shinee row. Some of them have procured dwellings at Chester-le-street, but a great majority of these misled people have no shelter, and have encamped in the lanes in the neighbourhood.

A MURCILES CAT.—At Longton, in Lancashire, in May last, a pair of starlings built a nest in the thatch of a brewhouse. While the lady of the house sat upon her eggs, her spouse supplied her with food, and cheered her with a song. But—one luckless day—a sly tomcat, which had lurked behind a chimney, sprang upon the loving songster, and gobbled him up. The bereaved bird took flight from her home, and returned at eve with another husband. The new-married pair then pulled down the nest (scattering the eggs upon the ground), and built a new one. Eggs were again laid—again the lady was "sitting"—again she had a partner providing her with food, and amusing her with his notes—and again did cruel pussy make her a widow. Not long, however, did she wear her weeds. A third mate was found—a third nest constructed—and a third set of eggs produced; and, according to the *Preston Chronicle* of Saturday last, pussy was again at his post behind the chimney.

SHOWER OF FROGS AT SELBY.—In the course of the afternoon of Monday last, during the prevalence of rather heavy rain, the good people of Selby were astonished at a remarkable phenomenon. It was rendered forcibly apparent, that with the descent of the rain there was a shower of another description, viz., a shower of frogs. The truth of this was rendered more manifest by the circumstance that several of the frogs were caught in their descent by holding out hats for that purpose. They were about the size of a horse bean, and remarkably lively after their aerial but wingless flight. The same phenomenon was observed in the immediate neighbourhood.—*Leeds Mercury.*

DESTRUCTIVE THUNDER STORM.—A violent storm of thunder, lightning, hail, and rain, visited the northern counties, but especially Yorkshire, on Monday the 24th ult. In many localities it was unusually severe. At Huddersfield, Wakefield, and Halifax, the streets were literally deluged. The accounts report much damage from the lightning. Eighteen sheep were killed near Forbeck, besides other sheep and cattle elsewhere. Several persons were struck by the lightning, one or two stunned by its effects, but providentially no lives were lost. The crops and many dwelling-houses sustained much damage. At the house of Matthew Sykes, Esq., of Milns bridge, considerable damage was sustained, the electric fluid entering the drawing-room chimney, passed into the room, doing considerable injury to the gilt moulding and ornaments of the room, also destroying the gilding of the looking-glass and picture frames. From thence it passed into the dining room, then into the kitchen, and out of the door, which was open. Several likenesses and small chimney ornaments in one of the bed rooms were completely destroyed. It was a fortunate circumstance that both Mrs Sykes and her niece had left the drawing room. They had been sitting conversing together, and had not left the room more than half a minute when the destructive element entered it. The stack of chimneys is so shattered that it will have to come down. The internal injuries are estimated at about £15.

INCENDIARISM is still very rife, and, unhappily, is not confined to Norfolk and Suffolk. One or two fires having taken place in Essex, one in Cambridgeshire, one in Kent, two in Suffolk, one in Lancashire, one in Wiltshire, and one in Cornwall, during the past week.

IRELAND.

THE REPEAL AGITATION.—I believe it may be now stated as more than mere rumour, that government are silently taking measures for the prompt suppression of the repeal agitation, which it is felt and admitted, has not been laid either by the suspension of the monster meetings or the proceedings subsequently adopted, ending, although they did, in the conviction and incarceration of the leading conspirators.—*Times Correspondent.*

A VISIT TO THE STATE PRISONERS.—The *Nation* supplies its readers with a most interesting account of a visit to Richmond penitentiary, part of which we subjoin:—

I met the great man in the garden, walking with his gifted daughter, Mrs Fitzsimon, and followed by a brigade of her sons, as manly and gallant-looking boys as I ever beheld. I never saw anybody look less like a beaten man, or more like a conqueror.

I was most anxious to hear of his health and habits; for a sedentary life would inevitably ruin the constitution of a man who has done more work, 'to his own hand,' than any man in Europe. Both go on as they ought.

He rises in the morning about seven o'clock, and walks an hour in the garden; hears mass at eight, and breakfasts at nine. From ten till twelve he usually devotes to his papers and letters, and the mid-day of all the visiting days is fully occupied with his friends. He dines with the other 'conspirators' at five o'clock, and gives the evening to exercise and reflection, or to reading. A disappointed politician would beat himself, in spirit, against his bars; the political philosopher is as calm, and as happy, and as playful, as if he were reigning an Irish prince at Darrynane.

While I walked about the gardens, he was waited upon by a catholic bishop from a distant colony of England, an independent minister from Munster, a stipendiary magistrate, a presbyterian deputation from Banbridge, the mayor of Cork, a poor Christian brother, who stole a day from his generous labours to see the 'liberator,' a Birmingham merchant, and an artist from Belgium, who came to the country to make an historical picture of the imprisonment. 'Thinks I to myself,' the Brewsters and Tom Smiths made a mistake when they reckoned upon snuffing out a star of this magnitude with their patent penny snuffers.

Gray was the first of the prisoners I met, and he chartered me to their 'lions.' If I might 'tell the secrets of the prison-house,' it would be seen that they have confounded all geography, and annihilated time and space, 'to make seven convicts happy.'

Talking of the appearance and spirits of the "conspirators," I observed that they did not look much like men in gaol. "No," said Gray, "it is impossible to imprison men who are never less alone than when alone. A trained mind is as busy in a dungeon as in a theatre, and a well-balanced one as happy. One wet day, during which we were confined to the house as closely as if we were locked in chains, I saw Steele scratching a rough outline of the valley of the Liffey upon the wall, to convince Barrett and Ray that it transcended the vale of the Downs; while John O'Connell was as completely abstracted in his studies as if he were in Darrynane cottage; and I laughed at the notion of punishing them by confinement. If you buried these men in dungeons, one of them would draw mathematical problems on the flags with his repeal button, and the other, I dare say, tally off statistical calculations by the links of his chains. No, friend, there is no prison for mind."

"But," I observed, "those grim walls, and ugly bars—they must interfere with your meditations. It would require more poetry than is usually met in a political committee to clothe them with imaginary roses and evergreens. Confess that they spoil your zest for retirement."

"If I do," replied Gray, "I will be deceiving you. I am convinced O'Connell's feelings here are very much akin to what they would be if he were living in a palace voted to him by the nation. He forgets all restrictions as completely as if they did not exist, in his pride at the miraculous success of the cause. You recollect Erasmus's epigram—

'Believe that you have it and you have.'

He believes it a palace, and it is. As for the rest of us, the younger men deem it, and make it, a college. They are studying ten times as hard as they did outside; and the regularity of the system under which we live gives us all the advantage, and protects us from the seductions of a university life. We have the great Professor to read politics under; and books and maps for more regular study."

Steele joined us, and being told what we were talking of, assented to Gray's opinion—"Yes," he went on to say, "the spirit of the age is 'work,' and it would not become us to be behind it. When I was at Cambridge, some studied, some idled, some dissipated—here all work. This is the ninth volume of Bacon, which I have reached by going regularly through the other eight, varying my reading with Dr Kane's admirable book—a book which will, undoubtedly, make a new era in Irish statistics—and I am one of the least systematic workers in the house. Apart from the Liberator, John O'Connell is by far the most regular in his industry. Ray, who is always busy with hand or head, probably the most constant; and Barrett, by fits and starts, the most vigorous. This, sir, is Richmond College, at your service."

Ray was found in a little plantation that answers the same purpose as the groves of Academus, and will be as famous by-and-by. There were two or three books on a bench, and the Home Secretary was deep in one of them. As he is comptroller of the household, I questioned him whether the extraordinary reports flying through town, of presents arriving to the prisoners by every coach from the country, were true. He assured me they were. "Take yesterday for example," said he. "In the morning we breakfasted off a table covered with damask, from the looms of Mr Reed, of Banbridge, who had just presented a table-cloth of exquisite beauty, ornamented with the arms of Ireland, and the insignia of Repeal, to each of the 'Conspirators.' We had gunpowder tea from Raheny Cottage, sugar from Castlebaggot, and barnbraes from Town Councillor Andrews. At dinner we had fish from the Bishop of Waterford and Lord Cloncurry, and fruit for the dessert from the garden of the convicted conspirator, Father Tierney, down in the black north. This is one day—you may imagine the rest, and guess whether we can be

gloomy with sympathy coming home hourly to our door."

The spirit in which those men make light of their imprisonment is one most hopeful for the country. It is the sure symptom of resolution that knows no yielding. Cowardice or quackery would magnify its sufferings; they think little of them, because they were prepared for the worst that could come. The national honour was in their hands—if they had faltered we were eternally disgraced—but they have proved that it was in safe keeping.

My time now expired, and as I was occupying the place for which others were impatient, I retired.

Steele accompanied me to the outer gate, and taking off his cap, with a mixture of politeness and humour which would have delighted Sir Richard, his great namesake, begged that I would excuse him for not seeing me to my carriage! As I passed the gate, the governor, Mr Purdon (whose name the French papers have, by a happy accident, blundered into *Monsieur Pardon*), just arrived on a hack car, and I witnessed the most characteristic scene of the day. "Here, my boy," said the governor, who is a frank, good-humoured looking man of about fifty, "here is your fare, and you earned it honestly—you did not spare your whip-cord." The driver put it away hastily with his hand, and indicated that he would not have it. "What!" cried the governor, "do you refuse nearly double your regular fare? How much do you want?" "Nothing, sir," replied the young patriot, "but the pleasure of serving your honour, who, they tell me, are so kind to the Liberator."

The war of supersessions continues with unabated vigour, and from a correspondence published in the *Cork Reporter*, it appears that a gentleman, who is stated to be a "man of moderate politics," has been removed from the commission of the peace for presiding at a meeting, the object of which was to "express sympathy in his present position with Mr O'Connell." This gentleman is Cornelius O'Brien, Esq., of Kilkor Rathcormic.

The repeal electors of Dundalk, to the number of 113 out of a constituency of less than 300, have called on Mr Redington for an expression of his sentiments on the question of repeal. The answer not being satisfactory, his constituents request him to resign his seat, and refuse for the future to give him their support.

Mr Corbally, one of the members for the county of Meath, has also refused to attend the Conciliation hall meetings at the dictation of a meeting of his constituents at Trim.

The Orange leaders appear to be sorely tasked to keep their followers in hand. They are addressing the Orangemen "with most petitionary vehemence;" reminding them that the Procession act does not expire till the 1st of August—that "one trial yet awaits them before the expiration;" and imploring them to abstain from processions—for this year only.

SCOTLAND.

The town council of Cupar have adopted an address to her Majesty condemnatory of the proceedings against O'Connell and the other prisoners.

THE COLLIERS' STRIKE.—The unfortunate dispute between the colliers and their employers in this county, still goes on with unabated vigour. The strike is no longer a question of "wages," but the right of how much labour is to be done. The colliers declare they are as able to stand other three weeks as they were the last; and at a general meeting of the men on strike, held on Friday, 28th current, at Faskine, it was unanimously agreed, that as the employers have not come to terms, every means possible should be made use of to raise sufficient support to carry out the strike to any length of time required.—*Glasgow Saturday Post.*

The stockbrokers of Glasgow have just formed themselves into a society under the title of "The Glasgow Stock Exchange Association."

CROWN PRINCE OF DENMARK.—The visit, last week, of Frederick, crown prince of Denmark, to our Highland capital, forms a memorable and interesting event. It was not merely the novelty of such an occurrence, or the high rank and affable manners of the Danish Prince and his suite, there was something of kindred feeling experienced as we welcomed these strangers of northern origin to our shores; and to this were added the reflections springing from the contrast afforded by their present friendly greetings and mutual sympathy to the recollection of those ancient warlike excursions of the Danes, of which so many traditions are still rife throughout the northern highlands. The present Crown Prince appears most anxious to strengthen the connexion between Great Britain and Denmark, and his ambassador, a highly intelligent and amiable man, is impressed with the same sentiment. The flattering reception they have experienced in this country appears to be highly prized by all the party, and no farewell cheers were ever given with more sincerity or good wishes than those which were interchanged when the strangers left the shores of Scotland.—*Inverness paper.*

THE NEW LORD-LIEUTENANT.—It is now confidently stated that Lord Heytesbury has been selected for the government of Ireland. The appointment has given satisfaction to whigs as well as Tories—Lord Heytesbury being very moderate in his political sentiments and having filled diplomatic stations on the continent with great credit. At St Petersburg, during the Polish revolution, he is said to have shown no small measure of liberality and vigour. The records of the Foreign office would disclose his opinions as to the violation of the constitution of Poland. As British ambassador at the court of St Petersburg he endeavoured in every possible way to preserve the noble Catholic foundations which existed in Poland before the revolution of 1830; openly expressed his opinions as to the tyranny of the Grand Duke Constantine; and endeavoured, but fruitlessly, to become a mediator between the sovereign and his revolted subjects.

In our last number we stated the number of members of the Primitive Methodist Society at 18,405. This was a misprint for 88,405.

RETRENCHMENT IN THE ROYAL HOUSEHOLD.—The *Globe*, "from sources of information peculiarly our own," gives some statements respecting the late dismissals from and retrenchments in the royal household, of which such contradictory accounts have appeared. "Immediately on the appointment of Mr Norton to the office of Deputy-comptroller of the Household, that gentleman's close investigation detected great waste and extravagance, as well as several useless appointments, both in the Lord Steward's and Lord Chamberlain's departments." With the sanction of the Queen, Mr Norton grappled with these abuses, reformed them, and effected a saving of £10,000 a year; which has been laid out principally in making additions to the services of plate. His royal mistress has not only approved his exertions, but rewarded them. The reformer will next make an inroad into the department of the Master of the Horse.

THOMAS CAMPBELL.—The remains of this poet were to be interred in the Poet's corner, in Westminster abbey, this morning, at half-past eleven in the forenoon.

Mr Justice Maule has, for some days past, been unable to leave his house, in consequence of a severe attack of illness; but we understand no danger is apprehended.—*Standard*.

SUDDEN ILLNESS OF JOSHUA SCHOLEFIELD, Esq., M.P.—This gentleman, one of the M.P.'s for Birmingham, was seized with sudden and dangerous illness, and remains in a very precarious state.

POST OFFICE ARRANGEMENTS.—On and after the 6th day of July next, the London mails going northward will be despatched an hour earlier in the mornings and evenings, so that the letters from the south will be delivered an hour sooner in Edinburgh, Glasgow, and the other intermediate post towns. By this arrangement there will be three deliveries of letters in the day in many provincial towns.

PENNY POSTAGE.—The London committee announce that they have received £3,500, in sums of from one penny to ten guineas, in aid of the national testimonial to Mr Rowland Hill. This includes remittances from twenty-one provincial towns and cities, amongst which we perceive Bristol (where the movement first originated) set down for £150, the highest sum upon the list, the next being £61, from the island of Guernsey. The remittances from Liverpool, Birmingham, &c., are not yet announced.

Plans are now arranging for making a harbour of refuge and defence to the eastward of Dungeness, and about N.E. from the light; the Roar and the Swallow Sands to be taken as the foundation for substantial breakwaters against the wind and sea ranging from N.E. to S.E., the place being well protected from westerly winds by Dungeness beach.—*United Service Gazette*.

AMERICAN ICE.—On Sunday last, a vessel arrived in the Mersey, with a cargo of American ice, intended, it is said, for Mr Lynn, of the Waterloo Hotel, who has had an ice-house, on the American plan, constructed for its reception.

THE POLISH BALL.—The clear profit of the late ball, given for the benefit of the Polish refugees, after payment of all expenses, exceeded £1,000. Last year this ball at Willis's, for the same purpose, produced about £620 only.

THE RAILWAY REFORM BILL.—This measure is now under the consideration of the House of Commons. Its provisions are substantially the same as those recommended by the select committee, which we have from time to time indicated as likely to be adopted. They are briefly these:—

1. The Board of Trade is empowered, fifteen years after the first of January next following the passing of any future railway bill, whether for any new line, or for any branch, trunk, &c., to enforce a revision of the fares and charges wherever the profits shall exceed ten per cent. on an average of three years, the company being guaranteed ten per cent. under the revised tariff, but "being authorised to claim any deduction which shall appear to them due on account of the loss sustained by default of management."

2. Power to the Board to purchase at the end of fifteen years, on behalf of her Majesty, any or all such railways at twenty-five years' purchase, but not whilst under the operation of any revised tariff enforced by the Board, unless by the consent of the proprietors.

3. The enforcement of a supply of convenient covered third-class carriages for poorer passengers, traveling along the whole line at least once a day, and not at a higher charge than 1d. per mile.

4. Power to the Postmaster-general to send on all such lines messengers with packages of letters at the ordinary rates of fare and carriage by any train, if he pleases.

5. Power to the Government to appoint inspectors and other persons to carry this and other acts into execution.

6. A prohibition of raising money by loan, except under the authority of specific acts of Parliament.

7. Power to enter into similar arrangements with such existing companies as may voluntarily choose to ensure themselves against competition, and for that purpose may wish to surrender to Government the same option of purchase as that already alluded to.

8. The Board of Trade to decide and announce in the *Gazette* what railways are to be considered as coming within the operation of the act.

The Railway bill now before the House of Commons has excited much commotion among the companies connected with these undertakings, and a strong opposition is already organised against it.—*Times*.

EVESHAM.—On Tuesday, June 11th, 1844, the members of the church worshipping in Cowle Street, Evesham, Worcestershire, under the pastoral care of Rev. J. Hockin, assembled in the vestry adjoining the chapel to take tea, which was provided and given by six of the members. After singing and prayer, Mr T. White, jun., presented Mr Hockin with a purse containing a handsome present from the church as a token of their high esteem for his character and faithful labours amongst them. After appropriate addresses had been delivered by Mr Hockin and some of the members present, the friends separated, highly gratified and mutually encouraged.

THE CONVICT DALMAS has been respited for a few days, in order that the whole of this painful case might undergo the fullest investigation at the Home Office, as it is believed some of the evidence requires explanation.

THE WEATHER.—On Monday evening, about six o'clock, the metropolis was visited by a thunder storm of considerable severity, accompanied by torrents of rain. The lightning was very vivid for some time, and the storm lasted nearly an hour. At a later period of the evening the rain ceased, but the clouds still wore a lowering aspect.

IMPRISONMENT FOR DEBT.—A correspondent of the *Times* relates the following instance of the cruelty of this enactment, which, but for Lord Brougham, might ere this have been repealed:—

A well-born and highly-educated young woman, of twenty-one years of age, has, for three years, exercised her superior musical talents for the purpose of aiding in the means of support of her mother and sisters, whose fortunes were lost by their father's unsuccessful speculations. A music-seller from time to time supplied her with music for her professional uses, but always sent much more than desired. The personal attractions and talent of this lady had attracted the music-seller's notice, and he avowed himself, to the great astonishment of the lady, her admirer; his suit, as may be supposed, was calmly rejected, the lady being engaged to an officer of some rank and family. On hearing this the music-seller demanded instant payment of his money, accompanying it with a writ. Expostulation was used. The unnecessary part of the music, sent without orders, offered to be returned, and the remainder paid for. During this correspondence the action was continued, judgment obtained, execution against the person issued, and the young lady taken from the steps of one of the highest officers of the crown, where she was about to attend her pupils, and carried to a spunging-house in Chancery lane, and before the affair could be settled three days elapsed. If the usurped practice of the lawyers to imprison the person of a debtor gives to a low-minded, dastardly fellow, the power of thus exhibiting his revenge and disappointment, and of offering so deadly an insult to youth and female worth, the sooner Lord Brougham withdraws his opposition to Lord Cottenham, the more we shall be inclined to think him an English gentleman. The paralytic, the mourner, the sick, if not in *articulo mortis*, are all equally liable to seizure and ruin, without any possible benefit being derived, but to the lowest attorneys, the gangs of sheriffs' officers who live on the miseries of others, and the public evil which ensues from leaving the vindictiveness of creditors to be gratified, and costs to be increased to the most grasping class in the whole legal profession.

AGRICULTURE AND MANUFACTURES.—The increase per cent. of England during the ten years previous to the recent census is 14.5. So much for the whole; now for the parts. The increase per cent. of Buckinghamshire during that period has been 6.4: Cumberland, 4.9; Hereford, 2.4; Norfolk, 5.7; Oxford, 6.2; Suffolk, 6.3; Westmoreland, 2.5. These are purely agricultural counties; and the additional population they have been able to accommodate during the above period, is in no case nearly half the average of the whole kingdom. They are just the counties too which complain most of surplus. The following counties, also mainly agricultural, have been able to find indifferent accommodation for just about half the average:—Devon, 7.8; Salop, 7.2; Somerset, 7.8; Wilts, 7.7; the North Riding of Yorkshire, 7.0; and Essex, notwithstanding its proximity to the metropolis, 8.6. As it is evident these inhospitable counties must have got rid of some portion of their encumbrance, that is, of their natural offspring, let us see where the outcasts have found a home. The increase in Monmouth has been 36.9. Railroads and steam engines, of course, account for that. In Lancashire, 27.7; Staffordshire, 24.3; Cheshire, 18.3; Warwickshire, 19.3; the West Riding, 18.2. These are the manufacturing counties. We find them able not only to provide for their own, but also to relieve the starved out excess of their neighbours. There is no likelihood of any other result in 1861 and 1861, and 1871, and for ages.—*Times*.

FREE LABOUR IN BRAZIL.—The provincial authorities of Rio de Janeiro have engaged with a M. Bergasse, a French gentleman, to grant him two leagues square of land in that province, for the express purpose of cultivating sugar by six hundred European emigrants (part of two thousand offered). We shall then be importing free-grown and slave-grown sugar from Brazil. Shall we receive the one and reject the other, or how establish such certificates as shall distinguish the one from the other?—*Globe*.

STATISTICS OF CAB DRIVERS, &c.—From some documents recently prepared for the Home Missionary Society, it appears that there are in the metropolis 347 watermen employed upon the various cab stands, 1,793 omnibus conductors, 1,662 drivers of cabs, and 4,646 drivers of hackney coaches and omnibuses, making a total of 8,348 men, or, with their families, 20,000 persons living by the conveyance of passengers in and around London.

EVERYBODY'S COLUMN.

The sons of Mahomet Ali and Ibrahim Pacha are on their way to Paris, where they are to be educated.

The "O'Connell tribute" for 1844 mounts up to a figure (£30,000 has been named) that this national impost never before reached.

The last accounts from Nauvoo represent Joe Smith, the Mormon impostor, as cheating some newly arrived emigrants, and turning his own wife out of doors.

The Ojibbeway Indians, whilst in London, made a purchase of some 15,000 brass thimbles, for the purposes of ornament and barter when they get home again.

Contracts are being entered into by the corporation for paving Fleet street with wood, the same as that laid down in Cheapside. Ludgate hill and Ludgate street are to be paved with curved granite stone.

Lord Brougham will, it is reported, spend the ensuing winter in the Shetland Isles, where he will be enabled to follow his favourite occupation of fishing for the seals.—*Puck*.

It is calculated, that the four hundred mechanics' institutions of Great Britain comprise 80,000 members, possess about 400,000 volumes of books, raise about £30,000 a year, and occasion the delivery of nearly 4000 lectures.

Punch says, "It is no wonder Captain Parry and his crew were nearly starved while in the arctic zone, inasmuch as it appears the foolish fellows persisted in going in their bear (bare) skins!"

Persons growing potatoes ought to pluck off the blossoms, instead of permitting them to run to seed, which only weakens and injures the roots.

The *Evangelical Magazine* advertises for a young female, "capable of imparting a sound English education, with French and music," and all for a salary of £8 per annum.

It is said that a meeting of all the chess-players of the northern and midland counties is fixed to be at Nottingham, on Tuesday, July 28.

"When children are keen in youth, they are stupid in advanced years," said a pompous fellow. A boy who overheard him immediately replied—"What a very keen boy you must have been."

The entire space from the end of Cornhill to the east end of the Royal Exchange, including the open space facing the west end, taking in the Wellington statue, will be paved with flag stones; £1,760 was voted out of the consolidated fund for that purpose.

More of the Chinese ransom money has arrived at Portsmouth, in the *Wanderer*. The Sycee silver is in 250 boxes, containing, it is said, a million dollars.

A correspondent of the *Gardener's Chronicle* states that, from a bed 5 feet wide and 14 feet 6 inches long, he cut 77 cucumbers, between the 29th of April and the 29th of May, measuring in all 1173 inches in length.

The newspaper stamp returns, which have been a most fruitful cause of dissension, bitter ill-will, fraud, and misrepresentation, during the last few years, have at length been suppressed.

A self-acting ventilator for theatres, and other places of public resort, intended to admit precisely such a quantity of external air as will purify the internal atmosphere and bring it down to a determined point, has been invented.

The Royal Naval school at Deptford is nearly built, and will cost the county £16,000. But the improved manner in which it will teach the English youth to slaughter our enemies, may be an ample recompense!

The *Scotsman* states that wheat in Scotland looks beautiful, and is superior in all respects to the ordinary average at this season of the year.

THE CHURCH AT JERUSALEM.—A firman has been at length obtained by the British ambassador to permit the building of a protestant church at Jerusalem.

"You want to make a butt of me," said an undecided youth pressed to sing. "No, my good sir," said a friend, "we want a stave out of you."

PATENT MEDICINES.—It appears from a parliamentary return, just printed, that the amount of duty on patent medicine for the ten years ending on the 5th of January, 1844, was, on an average, nearly £50,000 a year.

ELDEST SONS.—This is clearly the end and the organised plan of the system of primogeniture; the ten thousand a year is to be concentrated in the hands of the eldest son, that it may act as a battering ram for procuring a thousand a year for each of the others, or as much of it as may be found practicable, by entry into the public pantry, and appropriation of the victuals that is therein.—*Colonel Thompson*.

A HINT TO COFFEE DRINKERS.—M. Pleischel states, from experience, that the infusion of roasted coffee acquires a far superior taste, and is more concentrated—consequently, that a much larger amount of beverage can be prepared from the same quantity of coffee, by adding to the boiling water, just before pouring it over the coffee, one grain of crystallised carbonate of soda for every cup, or two and a half grains for every half ounce of coffee.

COURTS OF LAW.—The Lord Chancellor is charged with the royal conscience, which must be rather a weighty matter, considering that fourteen thousand a year is paid for keeping it. The Chancellor is guardian of all lunatics; and indeed, considering the number of people who are driven mad by suits in chancery, the union of the office of Lord Chancellor with that of guardian of lunatics, is a very proper one.—*Punch*.

Literature.

Lectures, delivered at Broadmead Chapel, Bristol.
By JOHN FOSTER. London: Jackson and Walford. 1844. pp. 419.

In this age of crude compilations on the one hand, and impertinent levities on the other, it is a great thing to lay hold of an original work, especially one which contains thoughts adapted to leave society the better for its appearance. We have another reason for setting a high value on this volume. Some of its contents have tantalised us already to a breach of the tenth commandment. More than once we have seen some of these sermons handed about as literary curiosities, together with others of equal value, which do not enter into the composition of this volume. We believe that ladies have the privilege of asking for the pattern of any new millinery their more fortunate neighbours may happen to wear; but gentlemen do not feel equally at liberty to ask leave to copy every manuscript they may see or even peruse; and it is, therefore, an unspeakable comfort for us to possess at last a reality, the shadow of which has flitted before us so often. We promise ourselves that this precious volume shall not lie idly upon our shelves.

The preface tells us that "in the year 1822, Mr Foster, in compliance with the earnest request of some intimate friends, commenced the delivery of the lectures, from which the following are selected, once every fortnight, and continued them, though, latterly, at longer intervals, till the close of 1826. His auditory consisted of persons belonging to various religious communities in Bristol, most of whom had long known and appreciated his writings. With such a class of hearers, Mr Foster felt himself warranted to take a wider range of subjects, and to adopt a more varied and elaborate style of illustration than in addressing a promiscuous congregation." This volume contains the author's preparations for that exercise; not confined, however, to mere outlines, as a moment's inspection will convince the reader, though wanting in that full development which we usually associate with printed sermons. The present is to be regarded as a specimen of the very best mode, perhaps, of providing for public exercises; that, namely, in which the most important parts have been carefully adjusted down to the letter of what is to be delivered, whilst vacancies are left for suitable illustration or personal appeals, as the fervour of the moment might best suggest them.

Mr Foster was of that class of preachers who eminently fulfilled the conditions laid down by the late Robert Hall:—"Without descending to such a minute specification of circumstances as shall make our addresses personal, they ought unquestionably to be characteristic; that the conscience of the audience may feel the hand of the preacher searching it, and every individual know where to place himself." Preaching was, with him, objective rather than subjective; the theme being brought down to bear upon the man, rather than the man lifted up to expatiate upon the theme. This is illustrated in most parts, though not in all, of this volume. Foster's was the style of the painter who aims to produce a close portrait rather than a mere picture, however grand. Many of the criticisms which he makes, in his admirable essay on "the Character of Hall as a Preacher," received a precise exemplification in himself. He was no generaliser. His sermons are distinguished by their remarkable individuality, the personal pronouns being never wanting. He displays this faculty remarkably in the development of his subjects, where, frequently in a few bold outlines, he sketches a variety of characters to whom his theme is applicable, or a multitude of evils which it indicates. Declamation was not his creed; climax he did not seek; and it will be impossible to point out a single passage aiming at mere rhetorical effect. His enunciation of truth was didactic rather than discursive—dogmatic, rather than demonstrative—never arrogant or overbearing, yet carrying the marks of a conclusiveness which belonged to a most accurate and almost infallible perception. If Hall, as he himself says, quoting Dr Johnson's expression, "shone upon the angles of a thought," it was his prerogative to shine upon the angles of character; and his acquaintance with all the departments of spiritual anatomy was almost preternatural. A touch of his scalpel cuts away to the living flesh, and the patient writhes, if he be not cured. When we add to this a felicity and vigour of illustration, which indicates a rich, though not conventionally poetical, imagination, and a power of condensing it at particular points till it exploded with the force of a galvanic battery, we think we have put together many of the elements which tend to account for the extraordinary value set by the discerning upon his productions.

Yet, as a preacher, he was not popular; and it may seem strange that, with such qualifications, he has been so little appreciated in the pulpit. It was certainly from no want of vigour, vivacity, or earnestness. But, apart from all considerations of manner and address, a certain amount of expan-

sion of thought is necessary for a public assembly. We cannot lay aside the preacher, as we do his book, until his thoughts have become incorporated with our own. We need, as in a historical picture, silent figures as well as speaking ones—repetition as well as enunciation; and it is not enough that the preacher's arrow shall go deep, unless he cause it to rankle in its wound. From this mode of treating his hearers Mr Foster seems to have abstained on principle. At the close of one of the sermons in this volume, he says:—

"On the review of such an exposure, we do not adopt any formal language of exhortation. Mere exhortation is never of any use. Such representations and appeals to painful experience are of the essence of exhortation, and therefore we leave the subject."—p. 127.

But it is only to the artistic and initiated that such essences are convenient. The public can best appreciate them in a certain state of dilution, and the secret of all popular preaching is to keep the subject floating before the eye sufficiently long for inferior powers of vision to apprehend it. When truths are already received, application is, in the main, superfluous. But, with most hearers, the process is retrogressive; the mind does not descend from the principle to the appeal, but ascends back from the appeal to the principle. It is the feather upon the shaft which guides it to its aim. And we venture to believe, though we grant the admission to be humiliating, that there are a thousand preachers, who, did they feel at liberty to employ these sermons as their own, could produce, by means of them, a popular effect which never accompanied them in their first delivery.

We give this rather as a natural remark, than as a criterion of value. We "pity those who can go from the Dan to the Beersheba" of this volume, "and say, 'Tis all barren.'" They must be those who not only do not think, but will not; and we are apt to suspect them of moral obliquity quite as great as their mental one. For traces of earnest self-communing—of devout prostration before the Infinite and Holy One—of calm and terrible solemnity in the enforcement of divine claims—of sympathetic pity for the sinner—of an oppressive sense of the tendencies, symptoms, and consequences of his guilt—of a lightning glance into the darkest recesses of the human heart, together with a force of language which, like Ithuriel's spear, causes hidden evils to spring up in their hideous and tremendous magnitude; we cannot conceive that these discourses can be surpassed. In the last particular, we think that we are alluding to one great point of Foster's originality. When in the sixth sermon, he speaks of worldly levities as constituting "the magnetism of Satan;" when he refers to worldly thoughts as "a swarm of locusts, excluding the sun, intercepting the light of heaven, and devouring what it should shine on;" when he alludes, in his sermon on spring, to the contrasts between the natural and moral worlds, as resembling those beautiful spots which war has desolated—where the "blooming bower gives out its odours mingled with the putrid effluvia of human beings killed by one another;" when he describes procrastination as "a mighty evil spirit, thickening and darkening, and becoming charged with awful thunders, to fall upon the man in his last hour, or in eternity;" or paints indifference as "being but decision so far," and indifference in the end as being but "decision completed," and says, that "the loss of a year is as a seed-time gone, and the tract of ground sunk under the sea;" or suggests an answer from a wise youth to the volatile question, "Why do you thus restrain and repress your lively spirit with grave thoughts and earnest exercises? Because I hope to have vivacity at a period of life when I fear you will be oppressed with gloom!"—we feel the power of the mind which can cause us to feel so vividly.

We have left ourselves little room in which to characterise minutely these lectures. They are twenty-seven in number. Five of them are on—The New Year—Spring—Autumn—Winter—and the Old Year, and are most happy improvements of times and seasons. Some of them betray the master hand on practical points, which wrote the distinguished essays—"The right Mode of giving and receiving Reproof;" "On combining Watchfulness and Prayer;" "Characteristics of Vain Thoughts" (in two parts); "Spiritual Freedom produced by Knowledge of the Truth;" "On Formality and Remissness in Prayer;" "On Sober-mindedness;" and, "Fallacies operating against Earnestness in Religion" (in two parts). Some of these, we think, though selection is difficult, are the most precious in the collection.

This volume may be well termed, to use another illustration of art, the "studies" of a great moral and spiritual painter. The world has lost the preacher, but he will live again in these remains. Nor is it improbable that he will live to higher purpose in the press than in the pulpit. One of the great deficiencies of modern sermons is their want of speciality. This work is a noble specimen of the mode in which so great a lack may be supplied. Our conviction is, that we have in it one of the richest deposits which the receding waves of time has thrown within our reach. Nor let it seem ungrateful, knowing, as we do, that there are

many memorials of equal value yet unpublished, that the appearance of this volume stimulates our longing for more. We shall rejoice indeed if Messrs Jackson and Walford shall bring into port hereafter another such richly laden argosy.

The British Minstrel, and Musical and Literary Miscellany; a selection of standard music, songs, duets, glees, choruses, &c., and articles in musical and general literature. Glasgow: Hamilton. London: Simpkin, Marshall, and Co.

THIS is an original and judicious attempt to meet the growing demand for musical information. It is made more than ordinarily attractive by uniting, with a careful selected supply of songs, glees, sacred choruses, &c., much curious and instructive information on musical matters. The work appears to be better known and appreciated in Scotland than south of the Tweed; but we see not why it is not equally suitable for general circulation wherever a love of music prevails; for, although it contains a considerable proportion of Scotch melodies, the simplicity, pathos, and elegance, of many of those selected songs will make—and we may say, judging from the singular success of Mr Wilson the Scotch vocalist—have made them highly popular in England. The work is published at Glasgow in monthly parts. Each part contains 24 pages of music, and 20 pages of literature, the latter chiefly consisting of sketches and anecdotes of great musical composers. As to the character of the music we need only mention that it contains selections from Handel, Haydn, Mozart, Calcott, Webb, Spofforth, Arne, Purcell, and Harrington, and such compositions as the choruses in "the Messiah," "The heavens are telling," "Awake, Eolian lyre," "Crabbed age and youth," "Forgive, blest shade," "Hail, smiling morn," "Here in cool grot," "When winds breathe soft," "The witches," &c., to prove the sound discretion and musical taste evinced in their compilation. The publication has now reached its sixteenth number, and should it be sustained throughout with the same judgment with which it has hitherto been conducted, we predict that it will obtain a general and deserved popularity. Its amazing cheapness puts it within the reach of the most limited means.

A Practical Treatise on Congestion and Inactivity of the Liver, illustrated by Cases. By FREDERICK J. MOSGROVE, Surgeon. Simpkin, Marshall, and Co. 1843.

IT is a good sign of a man's intelligence and competency when, instead of hiding himself behind the cabalistic peculiarities of his profession, he draws aside the curtain, and lets others see the truth. We suspect, naturally enough, the competency which puts on the air of mysterious solemnity, whilst we give our willing confidence to him, who frank in his explanations, shows us that he has a reason, and is not afraid to give it. This is an intelligible book upon an important subject. The author lays aside the medicalisms which would have disguised his subject, and assumes that in these days, when science is making men familiar with operations going on around them, they may have some right to be made acquainted with those which are going on within them. And truly we see no reason why the human body should be padlocked, and our medical men alone entitled to keep the key.

The first part of this work is a clear explanation of the position of the liver in the economy of the human frame, and of its most common derangements. The effects of these derangements are then traced to the brain, heart, lungs, skin, stomach, bowels, kidneys, and womb; and cases are cited under each of these heads, with their appropriate remedies. The work is no quack publication. It is evidently the production of an acute, and accomplished, and experienced man, who will leave the world the wiser for his information. To all free livers; to all polemics, especially in divinity; to all students; to most sedentary women; to the envious and jealous; and to all to whom the question is applicable—

"I never saw a man grown so yellow—how's your liver?"—this work will prove invaluable.

The Causes, Nature, Diagnosis, and Treatment of Acute Hydrocephalus. By JAMES R. BENNETT, M.D. Highley, 32, Fleet street. 1843.

THIS work, which obtained the Fothergillian prize medal of 1842, is devoted, as the title expresses, to an inquiry very important to the medical profession. The subject appears to be treated with great acumen, and to be patiently pursued into its different ramifications. The author states that he uses the term "Hydrocephalus" not so much to designate a distinct disease, as a train of symptoms accompanied by effusion of water in the head. The various premonitory features are described as—disorder of the digestive organs—defective appetite—a dark line on the eyelids—dullness or fretfulness—broken sleep—rheumatic pains in the lower extremities—giddiness, confusion, or vertigo in the head—unsteadiness in the gait—variation in the pulse—alternate flushing and languor, &c. Dr Bennett regards the disease as more commonly affecting males than females; as more common in early than in advanced life (ninety-nine out of a hundred and fifty-five cases occurring between the ages of five and seven), and as more frequent in winter than in summer. He also considers the disorder as considerably allied to scrofula; the morbid anatomy being attended with traces of strumous action within the cranium. Except in cases of an inflammatory type, Dr Bennett does not strongly urge the anti-phlogistic treatment, preferring topical depletion in general to more active courses. Purgatives—counter-irritants—muriate of opium—calomel—diuretics—squills combined with mercury—iodine—the warm bath. Stimulants and tonics are, according to the circumstances of the case, characterised and recommended.

We have written enough to enable our medical readers to form a general opinion of the contents of this work. It is well written, though with such a profusion of Latin and Greek medicalisms, as to make us wonder whether gentlemen of the profession really question the powers of their own language.

LIST OF PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

1. *Biblical Dictionary.* Parts 1, 2, 3. By J. A. BASTOW.
2. *New Englander,* April.
3. *Character of Apostolical Preaching.* By A. FRASER.
4. *Affectionate Appeal to Young Men.* By B. EVANS.
5. *Dissent, its Character and Causes, &c.* Jackson and Walford.
6. *The Student's Vigils.* By T. BEGGS. Groombridge.
7. *German Experiences.* By W. HOWITT.

Religious Intelligence.

HACKNEY.—The public recognition of Mr E. Flood Woodman, as one of the ministers of Well street Chapel, Hackney, took place on the evening of Tuesday, May 28th. Mr Robert Philip, of Maberly Chapel; Mr T. W. Aveling, of Kingsland; and Mr M. A. Garvey, of Kentish Town, conducted the devotional services. Dr John Campbell delivered an excellent introductory address. Dr Burder, and Messrs Carlile, A. Fletcher, M.A., and A. King, of Cork, officiating in the remaining parts of the service. The services were interesting, the attendance numerous, and the prospects of usefulness are encouraging.

WHEATHAMSTEAD, HERTS.—The independent chapel at this place having undergone extensive alterations, was re-opened for the worship of God, on Wednesday, June 5th. Mr J. M. Charlton, B.A., of Tottenham, preached in the afternoon; and in the evening, Mr R. Robinson, of Luton. The collections amounted to nearly £13. The labours of Mr T. Gilbert have been owned and blessed in a remarkable degree at this place; the members have increased fourfold; a large congregation has been collected, which is still increasing. Sunday and day schools are in active operation; week evening instruction in reading, writing, and arithmetic, is given to the children of the sabbath schools and adults; Bible classes and tract distribution are also regularly carried on; and, notwithstanding great opposition, "the word of the Lord has free course, and is being glorified" in the conversion of sinners. Within fourteen months the chapel has undergone two enlargements, which have doubled its former size.

TORPOINT.—Mr Joseph Steer has accepted an unanimous invitation to the pastorate of the congregational church at Torpoint, Cornwall, and intends entering upon his stated labours on the first Sabbath in July.

TOTTENHAM.—On Thursday, June 20th, Mr John M. Charlton, B.A., late of Highbury College, was solemnly ordained to the pastoral care of the independent church at Tottenham, Herts. Mr Godwin, philosophical tutor of Highbury College, Mr Crump, Mr A. Stewart, Dr Henderson, Mr Wells, of Clapton, and Mr Harrison, of Tottenham, took part in the services.

ANNIVERSARY OF AIREDALE COLLEGE.—On Monday, June 17th, the classical examination of the students of Airedale College was conducted by Mr J. Glyde and Mr J. Stringer. The theological examination took place on Tuesday, the 18th, and was conducted by Mr Thomas Scates and Mr J. Pridie. On Wednesday, at eleven o'clock, a.m., the public meeting was commenced in the college chapel. After prayer had been offered up by Mr J. A. Savage, of Wilsden, two of the senior students read essays: Mr Douthwaite, on "the Divinity of Christ," and Mr Richards, on "the Relative Importance of Preaching, and the Ordinances of Baptism and the Lord's Supper." Both of the essays were of such a character as to give great satisfaction to those who heard them. Other two of the students, Mr Stead and Mr Hotham, were prepared to read essays, but were prevented by want of time. Mr Thomas Stratten, of Hull, then delivered a most excellent and impressive address to the students. After this, the constituents adjourned to the college, H. Forbes, Esq., being called to the chair, when the report for the past year was read by the classical tutor, Mr D. Fraser, and the other business of the institution transacted. The proceedings of the day were throughout of a harmonious and encouraging nature, and the only circumstance that threw anything like a damp on the meeting was, that the college is still in debt. In the evening, an instructive sermon was preached by the Rev. J. S. Hastie, of Otley.

SHREWSBURY.—Mr J. B. Pike, of Newbury, has accepted a cordial and unanimous invitation to the pastorate of the first baptist church, Shrewsbury, and is expected to commence his stated labours there about the middle of July.

WELSHPOOL.—Mr Henry Kerrison, of Homerton college, has accepted a very cordial and unanimous invitation to become the pastor of the independent church, vacant by the resignation of Mr Cyrus Hodson, A.M., and intends entering upon his stated labours on the second sabbath in July.

EMBLETON, NORTHUMBERLAND.—Mr Wm. Stead, of Airedale college, has received and accepted an unanimous and pressing invitation from the church and congregation assembling at the above place, and intends entering on his labours the second sabbath in July.

UNION CHAPEL, ISLINGTON.—On Wednesday, the 12th of June, Mr Henry Allon, late of Cheshunt college, was ordained at Union Chapel, Islington, having accepted the unanimous invitation of the church, made with the full concurrence of the pastor and officers, to become co-pastor with Mr T. Lewis. After the morning service, in which Drs Bennett and Harris, and Messrs Yockney, Sherman, Gilbert, &c. took part, a cold collation was provided in the school-room, at which Edward Smith, Esq., one of the deacons, presided. Upwards of thirty ministers, and the whole of the students of Cheshunt college, and some from Highbury college, were present. The most delightful reciprocation of interest and feeling prevailed. The company was addressed by the chairman, Messrs T. Lewis, H. Allon, J. Yockney, J. Godwin, and Drs Bennett and Campbell. Mr J. Sortain preached in the evening to the church and congregation, Messrs Henry Townley and A. J. Morris conducting the devotional parts of the service. The whole day was one of great and solemn interest, and the services such as were calculated to

produce a salutary and lasting impression on all present.

NEW CHAPELS IN DEVON.—On the 6th of June a new chapel was opened in the village of Morley, near Totnes, Devon; the old place of worship having been found much too small. About £40 was raised during the day. The foundation stone of a commodious chapel has also been laid at Charford Cross, near Totnes. A gentleman of the place, W. Furneaux, Esq., has generously given land sufficient for the chapel and for a burial-ground, and several other friends have promised their liberal aid.

FARRINGTON, BERKS.—Mr J. M. Strongman, of Highbury college, has accepted the unanimous and cordial invitation of the congregational church to become their pastor, and intends entering upon the stated duties of the pastorate on the first sabbath in July.

MONMOUTH.—The new sanctuary for the worship of the independent church in Monmouth, was opened for public worship on Wednesday, June 5, when sermons were preached by Mr Thomas Haynes, of Bristol, in the morning; Mr E. White, of Hereford, in the afternoon; and Mr D. Thomas in the evening. The building is a very elegant structure, capable of seating 450 persons; situated in the centre of the town, and suited to the claims of the population. The attendance during the day was very large, and the collections far exceeded the expectations of all parties.

CHESTERTON.—On Wednesday, June 26th, a baptist church was formed in the above place, of which Mr J. Roberts was chosen and recognised as pastor. In the morning, Mr Stovel stated the nature of a Christian church; after which a church was formed, composed of fourteen members, most of whom were dismissed for the purpose from the church assembling in St Andrew's street, Cambridge. In the afternoon, Mr Roberts was recognised and set apart as pastor of the newly-formed church. Mr Forster proposed the usual questions, and received the confession of faith; Mr J. H. Brooks, of Ridgmont, offered the ordination prayer; and Mr Acworth gave the charge. In the evening, Mr Roff addressed the members of the church, on the duties arising out of the relations sustained by them towards their pastor and to each other. Messrs Flood, of Melbourn; Cantlow, of Shelford; Thodey (independent), of Cambridge; and other ministers, were likewise engaged in the services of the day, which were throughout deeply interesting.

BIRTHS.

June 26, at New Park road, Brixton hill, Mrs JAMES SPICER, of a daughter.

June 26, at Witheridge, Devon, the wife of Mr W. NEALE, minister of the gospel, of a son.

June 30, the wife of Mr J. ROBERTS, baptist minister, Chesterton, of a daughter.

MARRIAGES.

June 20, at Argyle chapel, Bath, by the pastor, Mr Wm Jay, Mr EPHRAIM BILLET to Miss SARAH REED, both of Bath.

June 22, at the independent chapel, Chesterfield, by Mr W. Blandy, Mr THOMAS METTAM, of Whittington, to Miss H. BARNH, of Broom Bank.

June 22, at the baptist chapel, Chesterton, by Mr J. Roberts, Mr ALFRED IBBERTSON to Miss E. THURTELL.

June 25, at the independent chapel, Hall gate, Doncaster, by the pastor, Mr G. Johnson, Mr THOMAS CLARK, surgeon, to Miss SARAH SNOW, both of that town.

June 25, at Rusholme Road chapel, Manchester, by the pastor, Mr J. Griffin, Mr C. F. TUBBS, to Miss MARY HOPKINSON, of Chorlton-upon-Medlock.

June 26, at Argyle chapel, Bath, Mr JAMES DOUGLAS, grocer, of Burton-on-Trent, to ANNE, second daughter of James BRYANT, Esq., of Bath.

June 26, at the independent chapel, Portsea, by the pastor, Mr T. Cousins, Mr J. W. WHEELER, to Miss ANNE BARTLETT, both of the above place.

June 26, at the Friends' Meeting house, Leeds, WILLIAM, son of John TIPPING, Esq., of Liverpool, to MARIA, daughter of Benjamin WALKER, Esq., of Cross hall, near Morley.

June 27, at Argyle chapel, Bath, by the pastor, Mr Wm Jay, Mr JAMES PORTER to Miss ELIZA FRAMPTON, near Street, in the county of Somerset.

DEATHS.

June 16, in his 84th year, SAMUEL TOOMER, Esq., formerly of Basingstoke, Hants, and late of Wingham, Kent. Mr T. was for more than sixty years a Sabbath school teacher and village preacher, and the far greater part of that time a deacon of the church, first at Basingstoke, and afterwards at Wingham. He was preaching in the chapel at Wingham (erected at his own cost in the year 1835, and of which his son, Mr S. E. Toomer, is minister), when he suddenly passed and fell, and before any one could ascend the pulpit, his spirit had departed to God.

June 23, at Hull, aged 25 years, SARAH, daughter of the late Mr John HAWKLEY, dissenting minister, of London.

June 24, RUTH EVERARD, the beloved wife of Mr James Everard, grocer, Bishop Stortford.

Trade and Commerce.

LONDON GAZETTE.

Friday, June 28.

The following buildings are certified as places duly registered for solemnising marriages, pursuant to the act of 6 and 7 William IV., cap. 85:—

The Tabernacle, Neath, Glamorganshire.
The Wesleyan Centenary chapel, Dewsbury, Yorkshire.
Turret Green meeting-house, Ipswich.

BANKRUPTS.

FLETCHER, JOSEPH, Liverpool, paint manufacturer, July 10, 30: solicitors, Mr T. Oliver, Old Jewry, London, and Mr D. Evans, Liverpool.

HADFIELD, CHARLES, Sheffield, anvil manufacturer, July 10, 31: solicitors, Mr Unwin, Sheffield; Mr J. Blackburn, Leeds; and Mr Duncan, Featherstone buildings, London.

HETHERINGTON, ROBERT, Ellen Grove, Cumberland, tanner, July 5, August 2: solicitors, Mr E. Tyson, Maryport, and Mr G. W. Cram, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

HOWLAND, ROBERT, Thame, Oxfordshire, auctioneer, July 5, August 12: solicitor, Mr Sturmy, Wellington street, London bridge.

PRITCHARD, EDWARD, Liverpool, wine merchant, July 10, 30: solicitors, Messrs Humphreys, Gray's inn, London, and Messrs Stockley and Co., Liverpool.

WETENHALL, JOHN, 20, Throgmorton street, City, stock broker, July 10, August 7: solicitor, Mr King, St Mary Axe.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.

ANDERSON, JAMES, Glasgow, glass merchant, July 2, 24.

M'EWEN, WILLIAM, and CHRISTIE, ANDREW, Crief, Ironmongers, July 1, 27.

MUNRO, JOHN, Tealagan, Inverness-shire, distiller, July 1, August 5.

WALKER, WILLIAM, DUNCAN, GEORGE, and WILLIAMSON, HENRY, Edinburgh, engineers, July 5, 30.

DIVIDENDS.

H. Clapham, Liverpool, woollen draper; second div. of 2s. in the pound, any Monday—J. E. Webster, second div. of 2s. in the pound, any Monday—Morrall and Borland, Liverpool, merchants; final div. of 21-32ds of a penny in the pound, any Monday—R. Paddon, Hartlepool, chemist; first div. of 1s. 24d. in the pound, any Wednesday—J. and H. Goddard, Market Harborough, Leicestershire, bankers; second div. of 4s. in the pound, any Tuesday.

Tuesday, July 2nd.

The following buildings are certified as places duly registered for solemnising marriages, pursuant to the act of 6 and 7 William IV., cap. 85:—

Wesleyan chapel, Redditch, Worcestershire.
Unitarian chapel, St James, Poole.

BANKRUPTS.

COLLISON, HENRY WEIR, Stamford street, Surrey, hat maker, July 12, August 16: solicitors, Messrs Hodgson and Burton, 10, Salisbury street, Strand.

HARDING, WILLIAM, Camberwell, Surrey, grocer, July 9, August 9: solicitor, Mr C. Jordan, St Mary-at-hill, City.

ROBERTS, FREDERICK, Handley, Cheshire, butcher, July 10, August 7: solicitors, Messrs Nicholls and Co., Bedford row, London, and Mr Cunnah, Chester.

SCOTT, THOMAS, Colchester, Essex, baker, July 16, August 13: solicitor, Mr Marriott, Colchester.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.

BROWN, SAMUEL, Ayr, saddler, July 5, 26.

M'KELVIE, JAMES, Edinburgh, coal dealer, July 10, August 7.

DIVIDENDS.

W. Farrell, Kensington, and West Derby, Lancashire, cattle salesman; first div. of 1s. 6d. in the pound, any Wednesday—J. Moucas, Liverpool, watch manufacturer; first div. of 2s. 10d. in the pound, any Wednesday—N. N. Solly, Tivdale, Staffordshire, and E. Solly, Sheffield, iron masters; first div. of 7d. in the pound, any Thursday—T. and W. Reeves, Whiston, Worcestershire, coach builders; first and final div. of 1s. 4d. in the pound, any Thursday—G. Booth, Princess street, Lambeth, Hume burner; first div. of 7d. in the pound, July 3, and two following Wednesdays—G. Hawkins, Bristol, mason; first div. of 12s. in the pound, any Wednesday—J. M'Connell, Liverpool, tea dealer; first div. of 1s. 4d. in the pound, July 3—J. Howie, Manchester, merchant; first div. of five-eighths of a penny in the pound, any Tuesday—J. and W. Dryland, St George's east, tallow melters; second div. of 1d. in the pound, any Wednesday—John Sewell, Chatteris, Cambridgeshire, money scrivener; first dividend of 1s. 7d. in the pound, any Wednesday—Mary Otley, St James's street, milliner, second div. of 9d. in the pound, July 3, and three following Wednesdays—Austin, Maunde, and Tilson, Henrietta st, Coventgarden, bankers, final div. of 3d. in the pound, any Wednesday—J. Dows, Thatcham, Berkshire, miller, final div. of 7d. in the pound, any Wednesday—G. Mobbs, Newland, Northamptonshire, plumber, first div. of 2s. 2d. in the pound on new proofs, and second div. of 4d. in the pound on old proofs, any Thursday—W. Parr, Smallthorn, Staffordshire, shopkeeper, first div. of 5s. 6d. in the pound, any Thursday—H. Johnson, Liverpool, grocer, sec. div. of 1s. 12d. in the pound, July 4, and any Thursday—T. Maguire, of Liverpool, publican, first div. of 2s. 2d. in the pound, July 4, and any Thursday—F. Shaw, London wall, carpenter, first div. of 5s. in the pound, July 3, and two following Wednesdays—L. Lumley, Cornwall road, publican, first div. of 9d. in the pound, July 4, and two following Wednesdays—E. Florence, jun., Subdenary, Sussex, potato dealer, first div. of 9d. in the pound, July 3, and two following Wednesdays.

BRITISH FUNDS.

Business has been very slack in the money market since our last. Prices may therefore be considered almost nominal.

	Wed.	Thur.	Fri.	Sat.	Mon.	Tues.
3 per cent. Consols	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ditto for Account	98½	98½	98½	98½	98½	98½
3 per cents Reduced	99½	99½	99½	99½	99½	99½
3½ per cts. Reduced	108½	108½	108½	108½	108½	108½
New 3½ per cent.	—	—	—	—	—	—
Long Annuities	12½	12½	12½	12½	12½	12½
Bank Stock	—	—	197	197½	197	197
India Stock	—	—	—	—	—	—
Exchequer Bills	72pm	73pm	73pm	73pm	74pm	74pm
India Bonds	94pm	94pm	—	—	—	—

FOREIGN FUNDS.

Austrian	114	Mexican	34½
Belgian	104	Peruvian	37
Brazilian	83	Portuguese 5 per cents	47
Buenos Ayres	36	Ditto 3 per cents	—
Columbian	13½	Russian	118½
Danish	89	Spanish Active	23
Dutch 2 per cents	62	Ditto Passive	5
Ditto 5 per cents	100½	Ditto Deferred	13

RAILWAY SHARES.

Birmingham and Derby	59	London and Brighton	46½
Birmingham & Gloucester	93	London & Croydon Trunk	12½
Blackwall	71	London and Greenwich	7
Bristol and Exeter	78	Ditto New	19
Cheltenham & Gt. Western	—	Manchester & Birm.	56
Eastern Counties	114	Manchester and Leeds	105
Edinburgh and Glasgow	84	Midland Counties	94
Great North of England	101	Ditto Quarter Shares	24
Great Western	123	North Midland	96
Ditto Half	78	Ditto New	66
Ditto Fifths	22	South Eastern and Dover	33
London and Birmingham	219	South Western	84
Ditto Quarter Shares	25	Ditto New	—

MARKETS.

MARK LANE, MONDAY, July 1.

There was a fair show of wheat this morning; and though a decline of 1s. to 2s. per qr was generally submitted to, great difficulty was experienced in making sales.

There was very little barley offering; but the inquiry being languid in the extreme, former terms were barely supported.

The arrivals of oats have been large—say 40,000 qrs—since this day week. Dealers and consumers were cautious buyers of this article, at a reduction of 1s. to 2s. per qr from last Monday's prices.

Beans were rather plentiful, and fully 2s. per qr lower. Peas, though in moderate supply, were also easier to buy, particularly grey, and this description must be quoted 1s. per qr cheaper.

Wheat, Red New	43 to 52	Malt, Ordinary	46 to 54
Fine	52 to 55	Pale	60 to 64
White	44 to 52	Rye	31 to 37
Fine	54 to 60	Peas, Hog	31 to 34
Flour, per sack	39 to 50	Maple	34 to 36
Barley	27 to 32	Boilers	36 to 38
Malting	32 to 35	Beans, Ticks	33 to 34

Beans, Pigeon	36 to 40	Wheat	17s. 0d.
Harrow	28 to 32	Barley	7 0
Oats, Feed	20 to 23	Oats	6 0
Fine	22 to 24	Rye	10 6
Poland	21 to 23	Peas	7 6
Potato	21 to 23	Peas	9 6

WEEKLY AVERAGE FOR JUNE 28.		AGGREGATE AVERAGE OF THE SIX WEEKS.	
Wheat	55s. 8d.	Wheat	55s. 8d.
Barley	32 8	Barley	31 4
Oats	22 8	Oats	21 10
Rye	34 2	Rye	32 10
Beans	37 10	Beans	35 5
Peas	35 2	Peas	33 4

SEEDS.

The operations in the seed market were quite unimportant, and quotations can at present be only regarded as nominal. Canaryseed sold slowly, at an abatement of 2s. per qr; and linseed cakes were easier to buy than last week.

ORIGINAL

